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# Resource use and adjustment potential: rural families in the Central Louisiana Mixed Farming Area

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# Resource Use and Adjustment Potential:

Rural Families in the  
Central Louisiana  
Mixed Farming Area

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BILL BOLTON

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# Resource Use and Adjustment Potential: Rural Families in the Central Louisiana Mixed Farming Area

BILL BOLTON<sup>1</sup>

## Introduction

This is a second report resulting from the research project entitled "An Economic Appraisal of the Characteristics and Problems of Low Income Farm Families in the Central Louisiana Mixed Farming Area." The research reported was part of the Rural Development Program inaugurated in 1956 by the President of the United States.

The first report<sup>2</sup> presented data on the relation of income to various farm and population characteristics. The purpose of the second report is to describe more specifically groups of rural families with respect to income problems, resource use and availability, and potential for making adjustments to increase farm or nonfarm income.

## Source of Data

Data for the study were obtained in a survey of 576 rural households in the Central Louisiana Mixed Farming Area, composed of Avoyelles, Evangeline, Lafayette, Pointe Coupee and St. Landry parishes. Avoyelles Parish was one of the "pilot counties" in the Rural Development Program. A probability area sample was used in selecting households to be included in the study. Most of the data pertain to the calendar year 1956.

## The Area and the Population

Five major soil divisions occur in this five-parish area. The soils of more than half of the area, on the north and east, are predominantly Red River and Mississippi River bottom soils. A strip of loessial terrace soils runs through the center of the area from northwest to southeast. Coastal prairie soils predominate in the western part of the area. Small amounts of coastal plains and flatwoods soils occur in the northwestern part. Fertility ranges from excellent to poor.

The topography of the area is typically flat to gently rolling.

<sup>1</sup>Agricultural Economist, Farm Economics Division, Economic Research Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

<sup>2</sup>*Income and Related Characteristics of Rural Households in the Central Louisiana Mixed Farming Area*, Department of Agricultural Economics Circular 257, Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station, March 1960. Agricultural Research Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Cooperating.

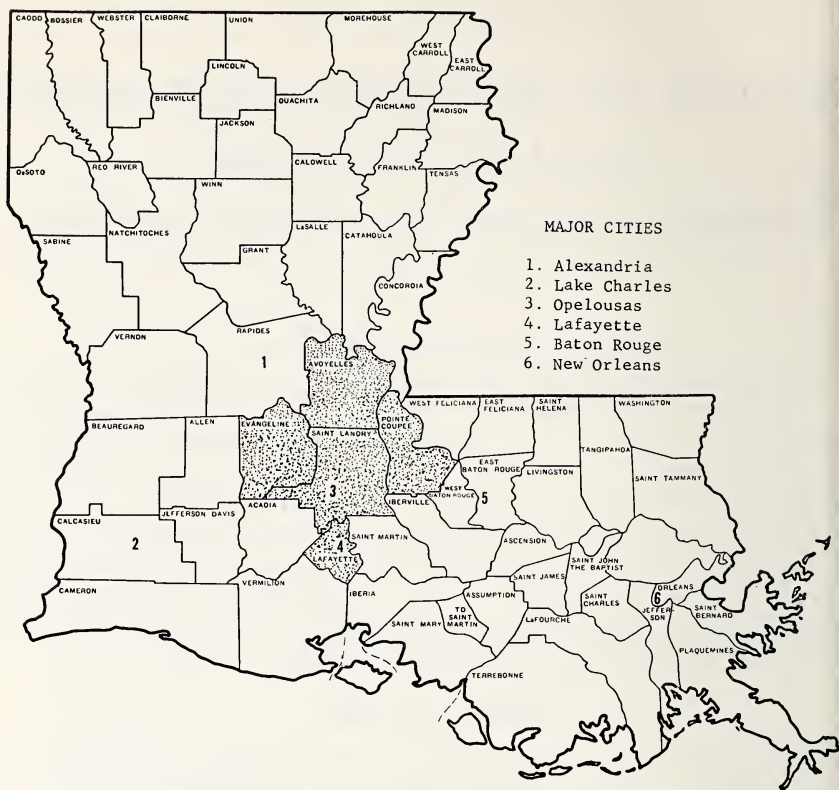


FIGURE 1.—Location of the Central Louisiana Mixed Farming Area

In 1954, the total value of farm products sold was approximately \$5 million for the five-parish area.<sup>3</sup> Eighty-seven percent of this amount was from the sale of crops. Cotton is the major farm enterprise throughout the area. Sugarcane is produced in the eastern and southern parts and rice in the southwestern part of the area. Sweetpotatoes are an important farm enterprise, particularly in the central and southern parts of the area. Livestock are kept on most farms, but specialized livestock enterprises usually are limited to the very large farms.

Of the almost one-fourth of a million persons in the area in 1950 31 percent were urban residents, 27 percent rural nonfarm residents, and 42 percent rural farm residents. Between 1940 and 1950, total population increased by 15,000 with most of the gain occurring in Lafayette and St. Landry parishes. During this period, the rural farm population lost 34,000 persons, the rural nonfarm population gained 22,000 persons and the urban population gained 27,000 persons. It is estimated that

<sup>3</sup>Census of Agriculture, Louisiana 1954, Bureau of the Census, United States Department of Commerce.



there was a net migration of 36,000 persons from the five parishes during this period.<sup>4</sup>

Negroes accounted for about 35 percent of the total population in 1950. The number of Negroes remained about constant between 1940 and 1950, but the net migration out of the area was estimated to be considerably higher for Negroes than for whites.

There are only two cities of more than 10,000 population in the area: Opelousas, in St. Landry Parish, with about 12,000 people in 1950, and Lafayette, in Lafayette Parish, with a population of about 34,000 in 1950. But there are several cities near the area. Alexandria, with a population of about 35,000 in 1950 is approximately 25 miles to the north; Baton Rouge, a city of 126,000 people in 1950, is about 20 miles to the east; and Lake Charles, with a population of 41,000 in 1950, is about 60 miles to the southwest. New Orleans, with a population of more than a half million, is slightly more than 100 miles to the southeast. Between 1940 and 1950, the following population increases occurred: Opelousas—30 percent, Lafayette—75 percent, Alexandria—29 percent, Baton Rouge—262 percent, and Lake Charles—95 percent.

In 1956, the five-parish study area had approximately 26,500 nonfarm employees subject to the old age and survivors insurance tax, employed by about 2,900 businesses. Taxable payrolls totaled about \$54 million. Slightly more than three-fourths of these persons were employed in Lafayette and St. Landry parishes. There were also many self-employed persons, proprietors, and others not covered by old age and survivors insurance. In 1956, East Baton Rouge Parish had 49,000 employed persons in this category, Rapides Parish (site of Alexandria) had 14,000, and Calcasieu Parish (site of Lake Charles) had 25,000.<sup>5</sup>

Although the data for the two years are not exactly comparable, a comparison of numbers of persons covered by old age and survivors insurance in 1946 and in 1956 gives some indication of the relative growth in the various areas. For the five-parish area, there was an increase of slightly more than 100 percent. Lafayette parish had an increase of 146 percent, and the other four parishes had an average increase of 74 percent. Over the same period, East Baton Rouge Parish had an increase of 125 percent, Rapides Parish had an increase of 23 percent and Calcasieu Parish an increase of 79 percent.

### Basis for Family Grouping

Income problems and adjustment potential for *existing families* in the sample, as distinct from individual family members, are considered in terms of family heads and wives. Therefore, the employment of other

<sup>4</sup>*Census of Population, Louisiana 1950 and 1940*, Bureau of the Census, United States Department of Commerce.

<sup>5</sup>*County Business Patterns, Louisiana 1956 and 1946*, United States Department of Commerce.

family members was ignored in developing the major family group that follow.

In order to delineate the magnitude of the rural low income problem in the Central Louisiana Mixed Farming Area, and to facilitate discussion of adjustment potentials, two large groups of rural families were isolated from the rest of the sample. These are (1) families defined as not having a major income problem, and (2) families defined as having very limited adjustment potential. This permits movement from the first families to a closer examination of the remaining families, who may or may not have an income problem and who may or may not have the potential for increasing income.

Families are defined as having no major income problems if the family head or wife had stable nonfarm employment from which \$2,000 or more was earned during the year, or if the family received \$2,000 or more income from property ownership. This group is heterogeneous from the standpoint of family characteristics, resources owned, and farming activity. Families in the group have one thing in common: the family-decision-making center received \$2,000 or more income from nonfarm, nontransfer payment sources. The \$2,000 yearly income is not to be interpreted as representing a standard to be attained. Some income level was required as a basis for grouping, and \$2,000 was chosen considerably above the level received by a large proportion of families in the area, yet within "striking distance" of those receiving lower incomes.

The group of families with obviously limited adjustment potential is somewhat harder to define. Families were placed in this group primarily because of some characteristic of the family head. Practically all family heads in the group were elderly males; disabled males; or female, usually elderly and usually with limited education. In general, the families in the group occupied a retired or semiretired status. The primary source of income to all family heads in the group was transfer payments<sup>6</sup> or small property incomes (under \$2,000). In general, those with property incomes would have been transfer payment recipients in the absence of the property incomes. In a few instances, the receipt of transfer payments, together with attitudes expressed by the family head, was accepted as indication that the family would make no income-generating adjustments. In all families, the likelihood of any income-increasing adjustment resulting from efforts of family heads or wives seemed to be virtually zero.

*Rural families remaining* after the two groups described above are removed from the sample fall into three distinguishable categories: (1) farm families primarily dependent on farming for a livelihood; (2) farm

<sup>6</sup>Transfer payments are defined as including all income not resulting from a productive effort on the part of the recipient or from property ownership. They include welfare payments, military pensions, social security benefits, other public assistance, and small amounts directly transferred between individuals.

aborer families; and (3) miscellaneous nonfarm families that do not fit either the "no income problem" or "no adjustment potential" definition. Of the three groups, the farm families primarily dependent on farming are of major interest in this report.

Each of the five major groups of families described above was further subdivided for purposes of the study. Following is a summary of the groupings used in the study, together with the number and percentage of sample families in each of the major groups, and the number in each subgroup:

1. Adjustment Potential Group I. Families obviously without a major income problem (134 families, 23 percent of sample)
  - A. Property income of \$2,000 or more (22 families)
    - (1) Large property owners—500 acres or more (6 families)
    - (2) Small property owners—Less than 500 acres (16 families)
  - B. Stable nonfarm employment income of \$2,000 or more to head or wife (112 families)
    - (1) Farm families (50 families)
    - (2) Nonfarm families (62 families)
2. Adjustment Potential Group II. Families with obviously limited adjustment potential (145 families, 25 percent of sample)
  - A. Major source of income from transfer payments (116 families)
    - (1) Nonfarm families (75 families)
    - (2) Farm families (41 families)
  - B. Major source of income from property (29 families)
3. Adjustment Potential Group III. Farm families primarily dependent on farming (excluding farms in Groups 1 and 2), (248 families, 43 percent of sample)
  - A. Less than 30 acres of cropland or less than 50 acres of total land, or both (177 families)<sup>7</sup>
    - (1) Nonowner families (118 families)
      - (a) Less than \$250 nonfarm employment income to family head (101 families)
      - (b) More than \$250, but less than \$2,000, nonfarm employment income to family head (17 families)
    - (2) Owner families (59 families)
      - (a) Less than \$250 nonfarm employment income to family head (38 families)
      - (b) More than \$250, but less than \$2,000, nonfarm employment income to family head (21 families)
  - B. Thirty to 50 acres of cropland, or 50 to 100 acres of total land, or both (45 families)<sup>8</sup>
    - (1) Nonowner families (30 families)
    - (2) Owner families (15 families)

<sup>7</sup>Defined as too small to sustain a farm income of \$2,000.

<sup>8</sup>Defined as large enough to approach a farm income of \$2,000.



- C. Fifty or more acres of cropland or 100 or more acres of total land, or both (26 families)<sup>9</sup>
  - (1) Nonowner families (10 families)
  - (2) Owner families (16 families)
- 4. Adjustment Potential Group IV. Farm laborer families (27 families, 5 percent of sample)
- 5. Adjustment Potential Group V. Miscellaneous nonfarm families (22 families, 4 percent of sample)

On the fringe of almost every group were a few families that could have been placed in some other group. For example, a few of the families with more than \$2,000 nonfarm employment income also received relatively large property incomes. Among families classed as receiving most of their income from property, a few also received transfer payments and vice versa. A few of the farm operators who had part-time off-farm employment had combined incomes from farming and off-farm employment of \$2,000. However, of the many groupings attempted, the one used seemed to reflect most adequately level of income, source of income, and adjustment potential, within the limitations of the number of observations available.

## Definitions

Certain computed figures are used in the tables and discussion relative to each of the family groups. Some of these figures require explanation.

*Unused open land* is computed by allowing two acres for each mature-cow equivalent and subtracting this requirement from the amount of open land not in crops. Unused land is not to be confused with underutilized land. Actually, two acres per animal might represent underutilization. It is certain that, for most groups, some of the land in crops is underutilized in terms of returns obtained.

Certain *returns* figures are shown in each of the land availability and use tables. It must be emphasized that these returns figures are *not* intended to represent an efficiency analysis. They are included only as a reflection of the intensity of land use by the various groups.

*Total receipts* include the share of farm receipts to both operator and landlord. It is the total value of farm produce from a given farm including farm-produced food.

*Farm income* is operator's cash farm receipts minus operator's cash farm expenses and depreciation on buildings and equipment owned.

*Farm earnings* is farm income plus the value of farm-produced food consumed by the family.

*Property income* is all income resulting purely from property ownership, farm or nonfarm. It includes income from farm land rented out (less any expenses incurred), mineral leases and royalties, rent from houses owned, and other similar items.

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<sup>9</sup>Defined as large enough to earn a \$2,000 farm income on a sustained basis.

*Labor availability* is computed on the basis of a 40-hour week, or in terms of the equivalent of a full-time work year of 2,080 hours. This is the figure toward which most full-time nonfarm employment tends. It is considerably below the figure generally used to reflect the availability of farm labor. However, the assumption of a 9- or 10-hour day and a 6- or 7-day week is as unrealistic for farm labor as for nonfarm labor, not only because of the seasonal nature of farm work, but also because of the lack of willingness on the part of any large group to work such hours.

Males and females over 14 and under 65 years of age, not in school, were assumed to have a full-time labor equivalent unless a physical disability was indicated. Family members over 14, but in school, were assumed to have 0.3 full-time equivalent of labor available. Children 10 to 13 years of age were assumed to have 0.2 full-time equivalent of labor available.

*Farm labor requirements* were computed on the basis of crops and livestock reported, yield of crops, level of mechanization, and amount of farm labor hired. Hired farm labor was credited at 49 cents per hour, the average wage rate reported for all farms in the sample. The labor requirements used for the various crops and livestock are shown in Appendix Table 1.

## **Families Obviously Without a Major Income Problem**

Families obviously without a major income problem (Group I families) accounted for about 23 percent of all families surveyed. To facilitate discussion of resource control and use, the 134 families in the group have been further divided into four subgroups. These are: (1) large property owners whose primary source of income was property; (2) smaller property owners whose primary source of income was property; (3) farm families whose primary source of income was nonfarm employment; and (4) nonfarm families whose primary source of income was nonfarm employment. Each of the subgroups is discussed separately in this section, followed by a discussion of the major group as a whole.

### **Owners of Large Properties**

Six families in Group I owned 500 acres or more of land and received property incomes of \$2,000 or more. These families made up slightly more than one percent of the sample. They owned about 53 percent of all land owned by sample families and operated about 43 percent of the land. A comparison with census data, however, suggests that this group is slightly overrepresented in the sample.

**Land Use:** Indications are that about half of the open land operated by these families was unused (Table 1). Gross value of production, including the value of farm privileges, amounted to less than \$20 per acre of open land. Net returns amounted to less than \$4 per acre. It should

TABLE 1.—Land Availability and Use, Rural Families Obviously Without A Major Income Problem<sup>1</sup>

Item	Unit	Major income source: property		Major income source: nonfarm work	
		Owned 500 acres or more	Owned less than 500 acres	Farm families	Nonfarm families
Number of families		6	16	50	62
		Average per family			
Land owned	Acres	2,392	132.1	55.3	8.8
Land rented in	Acres	13	8.1	18.0	..
Land rented out	Acres	168	67.4	16.9	8.0
Land operated	Acres	2,237	72.8	56.4	..
Open land	Acres	1,624	57.9	33.9	..
Crops	Acres	318	19.7	9.0	..
Cash Crops	Acres	166	16.9	4.5	..
Idle cropland & pasture	Acres	1,306	38.2	24.9	..
Unused open land	Acres	765	2.2	4.1	..
Rent:					
Per acre of open land rented in	Dollars	33.49	17.16	9.05	..
Per acre of open land rented out	Dollars	43.19	28.68	14.93	11.16
Total receipts per acre of open land operated	Dollars	18.00	40.00	61.00	..
Farm income per acre of open land operated	Dollars	3.25	—2.81	—2.86	..
Farm earnings per acre of open land operated	Dollars	3.97	6.97	10.77	..

<sup>1</sup>See pages 6-7 for definition of these families.

TABLE 2.—Labor Availability and Use, Rural Families Obviously Without A Major Income Problem<sup>1</sup>

Item	Major income source: property		Major income source: nonfarm work	
	Owned 500 acres or more	Owned less than 500 acres	Farm families	Nonfarm families
Number of families	6	16	50	62
	..... Average hours per family .....			.....
Male heads:				
Available	1,907	1,495	2,039	1,963
Nonfarm work	....	250	1,976	2,046
Farm wage work	....	....	....	5
Female heads and wives:				
Available	2,080	1,820	1,976	2,046
Nonfarm work	....	170	170	178
Farm wage work	....	....	....	3
II Other males over 14:				
Available	1,248	936	553	335
Nonfarm work	....	130	159	91
Farm wage work	....	14	...	7
Other females over 14:				
Available	458	572	379	148
Nonfarm work	173	....	42	10
Farm wage work	....	....	....	9
Children 10-13:				
Available	69	152	250	161
Hours remaining:				
Male heads	1,907	1,245	63	—88
Female heads & wives	2,080	1,650	1,806	1,865
Other males	1,248	792	394	237
Other females	285	572	337	129
Children 10-13	69	152	250	161
Total hours used for farm work	....	1,203	722	....

<sup>1</sup>See pages 6-7 for definition



be pointed out, however, that farm returns are somewhat understated for this group, while rent received is overstated. On some of the farms there were two or three tenure arrangements on the same farm in addition to farming operations carried on with wage labor. As a result, it was not always possible to allocate expenses between the tenants' operations and the landlord's operation. For these farms, gross rent was reported and expenses on the land rented out were included with the landlord's expenses. However, this makes little difference in the general conclusion that land operated by these families was used at a relatively low level of intensity.

**Labor Use:** Practically no off-farm work was performed by members of these families (Table 2). For the subgroup as a whole, more farm labor was hired than seemed necessary for the enterprises reported. In general, work performed by family members apparently was in a supervisory capacity.

**Capital:** The average net worth per family was about \$500,000. The average value of farm assets used was \$427,000, of which about \$75,000 was in machinery and livestock.

### Owners of Small Properties

Sixteen families in Group I owned less than 500 acres and received property income of \$2,000 or more. These families made up about 10 percent of the families in the sample. They owned about 8 percent of the land in the sample and operated about 4 percent. All male family heads were over 45 years of age and more than half were over 55.

**Land Use:** Only about 4 percent of the open land operated by these families was unused, in terms of the definition based on land use by livestock (Table 1). In terms of gross product, however, the land was considerably underutilized. Gross value of farm products, including the value of farm privileges, amounted to only \$40 per acre. Average farm income to these families per acre was very small. These returns would have been considerably smaller if a charge had been made for capital. The largest farm income reported on any of these farms was \$1,206. For these farms, although to a lesser extent than for the larger farms, rent received is slightly overstated and farm income slightly understated but not by enough to make an appreciable difference in returns to land operated.

**Labor Use:** Three of the male family heads had some nonfarm work. One had a home auto-repair service; one did some custom hauling; and one worked part-time at drilling water wells. Two wives worked in school lunch rooms.

On these farms, there was an average of approximately one full-time equivalent of male labor available for farm work and slightly more than a full-time equivalent of female and child labor available (Table 2). Slightly more than one-half full-time equivalent of farm labor was performed by family labor.

**Capital:** The families averaged a net worth of approximately \$42,000. They used farm assets valued at \$28,000, of which about \$5,000 was in livestock and machinery.

### **Nonfarm Employment of Head or Wife: Farm Families**

Of the Group I farm families with heads or wives receiving \$2,000 or more income from off-farm employment, 50 were farm families by census definition. Families were placed in this group or in the similar nonfarm group, only if the employment seemed relatively stable.

These families made up about 9 percent of the families in the sample. They owned about 10 percent of the land and operated about 9 percent.

**Land Use:** Almost half the land was owned by four families. About one-eighth of the open land was unused (Table 1). The level of intensity of land use was low. The gross value of farm products per acre of open land operated was \$61, but about half of this value resulted from two farms with large poultry flocks. Excluding poultry products, the gross value of product amounted to only \$34 per acre of open land, of which more than half was due to farm privileges. Net returns per acre of land were low. Only three families, of which two were those with the large poultry enterprises, had farm incomes of more than \$1,000. The largest farm income was reported by a family that had a large poultry enterprise and also owned a feed business.

**Labor Use:** Available labor of male family heads was almost completely utilized at nonfarm work at an average wage of \$13.87 per day (Table 2). One elderly head with a young working wife was unemployed.

Four of the 48 wives had full-time nonfarm employment at an average of \$2,875 per year. Employment of all other wives averaged less than one day for the year. Working wives were employed at teaching, clerical, and machine operator jobs.

An average of slightly more than the equivalent of one-third year of full-time farm labor was performed by family members on these farms, more than three-fourths of it livestock chore labor.

**Capital:** The average net worth of families in this subgroup was about \$30,000. The average value of farm assets used was \$22,335, of which \$2,769 was in livestock and machinery. These financial items varied widely among families.

### **Nonfarm Employment of Head or Wife: Nonfarm Families**

There were 62 nonfarm families in Group I who received \$2,000 or more from nonfarm employment of heads or wives. These families accounted for about 11 percent of the families in the sample. They owned about 2 percent of the land, most of which was rented out.

**Land Use:** About four-fifths of the land owned by this group was owned by four families. Rent received per acre for land rented averaged less than that received by families in the other subgroups because most of this land did not have cotton or rice allotments associated with it.

**Labor Use:** The labor of male heads in these families was slightly more than fully utilized on the basis of a 40-hour week. One male head in the group was disabled and did no work. For another, who established a household during the year, only part of the year was reported.

Two female family heads in the group had full-time nonfarm employment. Two wives also worked full time. All other wives had a total of 350 days of part-time work. Full-time jobs reported were teacher, store clerk, secretary, and grocer. Part-time jobs reported included clerical and stenographic work and cooking.

### **Characteristics of Families With Male Heads Earning \$2,000 or More**

Families receiving \$2,000 or more income from off-farm work of family heads are not considered, for purposes of this report, to have a major income problem. An examination of some of the characteristics of the male family heads, however, may provide some insight into the possibility of nonfarm employment adjustments by families in other groups.

Of interest is the low representation of some classes among these families as compared with their representation in the total rural population. For example, of the male heads in the group, only one-eighth were over 55 years of age, and only one-fifth had completed less than 5 years of school. Of the families classed as farm families, only 6 percent owned no farm property, that is, were purely renters. Not only were there relatively few renters, but the nonfarm employment income of renters was generally below that received by others in the subgroup. The average nonfarm employment income received by male heads for the entire group was almost \$3,700 per year. Heads of Negro families averaged about \$2,900, heads over 55 years of age averaged \$2,750, and heads with less than 5 years of school averaged slightly more than \$3,000.

Also of interest is the type of activity in which these nonfarm workers were engaged. Types of employment, by age and by education categories and average incomes received are shown in Table 3.

The proportion of workers in the unskilled, semiskilled and skilled labor groups decreased as education increased (Table 3). There is no clear relationship between age and type of employment.

Distribution of these workers by source of employment is shown in Table 4. About a third were self-employed persons, mostly proprietors of retail or wholesale establishments. With the exception of construction concerns, most of the employing agencies were considered to be stable employment sources. However, the relatively low employment by industrial concerns provides a relatively low base for expansion of nonfarm employment. At least a part of the industrial employment was on the fringe of or outside the area.

It is generally assumed that most adjustment from farm to nonfarm employment will occur at the younger ages. This appears to have been generally true for the nonfarm workers in these families (Table 5). There

TABLE 3.—Types of Employment of Male Heads of Group I Families Who Had \$2,000 or More Nonfarm Employment Income, by Age and by Education

Occupation	Number	Average wage	Years school completed			Age			
			Under 5	5-8	9 or more	Under 35	35-44	45-54	55 or over
			Number						
Proprietor or manager	27	\$ 3,693	4	11	12	7	9	5	6
Operative <sup>1</sup>	19	3,647	7	8	4	5	7	5	2
Craftsman <sup>2</sup>	33	3,652	6	20	7	12	8	10	3
Laborer	12	2,576	5	7	..	4	4	2	2
Salesman	4	3,438	..	2	2	2	1	1	..
Professional	6	6,267	..	..	6	2	3	1	..
Miscellaneous <sup>3</sup>	6	3,937	..	2	4	2	3	1	..
Total	107		22	50	35	34	35	25	13

<sup>1</sup>Semi-skilled class—truck driver, machine operator, etc.

<sup>2</sup>Skilled—carpenter, brick mason, etc

<sup>3</sup>Warehouseman, clerk, artificial breeding technician, service repair man, etc.



**TABLE 4.—Source of Employment of Male Heads of Group I Families Who Earned \$2,000 or More Income from Nonfarm Work**

Employment agency	Number	Percent
Self-employed	26	24.2
Construction concerns	22	20.6
Industrial products concerns	16	15.0
Government	11	10.3
School system	6	5.6
Wholesale-retail concern	8	7.5
Oil company	4	3.7
Dredging concerns	4	3.7
Railroad and utility	3	2.8
Service company	2	1.9
Miscellaneous <sup>1</sup>	5	4.7
Total	107	100.0

<sup>1</sup>Merchant marine, insurance company, sawmill, etc.

**TABLE 5.—Age and Farm Background of Rural Male Heads of Group I Families Who Earned \$2,000 or More Income from Nonfarm Work**

Item	Number	Age			
		Under 35	35-44	45-54	55 and over
Farm Families:		Number			
Never farmed full-time	22	5	6	6	5
Had farmed full-time	27	3	12	8	4
Age stopped full-time farming					
Under 25	(1)		(1)		
25-34	(14)	(3)	(9)	(1)	(1)
35-44	(7)		(2)	(4)	(1)
45-54	(5)			(3)	(2)
Total	49	8	18	14	9
Nonfarm families:					
Never farmed	34	18	8	4	4
Had farmed	24	8	9	7	..
Age stopped farming					
Under 25	(10)	(5)	(4)	(1)	
25-34	(9)	(3)	(4)	(2)	
35-44	(4)		(1)	(3)	
45-54	(1)			(1)	
Total	58	26	17	11	4

were no workers who had shifted from farming to nonfarm employment after 55 years of age. Of 12 part-time and residential farmers over 45 who had been full-time farmers, 5 had taken nonfarm employment between ages 45 and 54. Of seven nonfarmers over 45 who had farmed, only one shifted to nonfarm work after 45. The majority of shifts to nonfarm employment occurred before age 35.

### Family Income

Total family incomes for the four subgroups of families not considered to have major income problems are shown by major source of

TABLE 6.—Income of Rural Families Obviously Without A Major Income Problem<sup>1</sup>

Income source	Major income source: property		Major income source: nonfarm work	
	Owned 500 acres or more	Owned less than 500 acres	Farm families	Nonfarm families
Number of families	6	16	50	62
	Dollars per family			
Work of male heads	.....	275	3,424	3,606
Work of female heads and wives	.....	83	230	195
Property income	10,155	3,876	716	207
Transfer payments	.....	220	53	106
Farm income	5,273	—163	—97	
Value of farm privileges	1,174	568	462	77
Total	16,602	4,859	4,788	4,191
Work of other family members	100	317	257	132
Total family earnings	16,702	5,176	5,045	4,323
	Dollars per capita			
Per capita earnings	3,854	1,563	1,213	996

<sup>1</sup>See pages 6-7 for definition.

income (Table 6). All four subgroups averaged incomes of more than \$4,000.

Incomes of typical farm and nonfarm families in which the head had nonfarm employment may differ less than the average figures indicated. Property income, the chief cause of the difference in average income, was received by only a few families in each category.

### Adjustment Potential

The need to increase income is not considered to be critical for any of the families in this group. There is little doubt, however, that farm income could be considerably increased by some of the farm families. The data indicated that there is some underutilization of both land and labor by families in all three farm subgroups. However, since these families do not have an "income problem" as defined in this report specific farming adjustments will not be considered.

In this group, the adjustment problem of family members other than heads and wives is also relatively minor. From the 134 families in Group 1, there were, other than family heads, only 21 males over 14 who were not in school or employed at a wage of \$2,000 or more (Table 7). This is an average of one such person in 6.4 families. More than half of these had 9 or more years of school (with most having completed high school). Only one of them had less than 5 years of school.

**TABLE 7.—Characteristics of Family Members Over 14 Years of Age, Other Than Head and Wife, Rural Families Obviously Without A Major Income Problem<sup>1</sup>**

Item	Males		Females	
	White	Negro	White	Negro
	Number			
Under 30 years of age:				
Employed at \$2,000 or more	3	..	..	..
Employed at less than \$2,000 <sup>2</sup>	..	..	1	..
In school	26	1	19	4
Not in school				
Under 5 years schooling	..	..	..	..
5-8 years schooling	6	..	1	..
9 or more years schooling	10	2	-	..
30-44 years of age:				
Not employed <sup>3</sup>				
Under 5 years schooling	1	..	..	..
5-8 years schooling	1	..	..	..
45-59 years of age:				
Employed at \$2,000 or more	2	..	..	..
Not employed <sup>3</sup>				
5-8 years schooling	1	..	1	..
9 or more years schooling	..	..	1	..
60 years or older or disabled	..	..	7	..
Total	50	3	37	4

<sup>1</sup>See pages 6-7 for definition.

<sup>2</sup>Full-time.

<sup>3</sup>Full-time or at \$2,000 or more.

In these 134 families there were, other than family heads or wives of family heads, only 11 females over 14 who were not in school and not employed at \$2,000 or more. This was one in every 12 families. Eight of these had completed 9 or more years of school, and most had completed high school.

Of those members over 14 in school, both male and female, almost all showed normal progress toward completion of high school.

### Family Members Who Had Left Home

More than three-fourths of the family members who had left the families in Group I since 1945 had completed 9 or more years of school (Table 8). None had completed less than 5 years of school. Almost two-thirds of these persons had remained within the area. About one-third of those who were no longer in the area had gone to Texas. Only about 10 percent of the males were in the laborer occupational classes. Only one-sixth of the females were employed.

**TABLE 8.—Distribution of Family Members Who Had Left Home Since 1945 With Respect to Occupation and Location, Rural Families Obviously Without a Major Income Problem<sup>1</sup>**

Item	Males		Females	
	5-8 years school	9 or more years school	5-8 years school	9 or more years school
<b>Occupation:</b>				
Professional	..	3	..	2
Clerical	..	2	..	3
Sales	1	2	..	1
Craftsman	4	..	..	..
Operative	3	4	..	..
Service work	..	..	1	1
Laborer, nonfarm	1	2	..	..
Farm laborer	..	1	..	..
Student	..	1	..	..
Military service	1	3	..	..
Unknown	1	..	..	..
Wife	..	..	5	34
Total	11	18	6	41
<b>Location:</b>				
Local area	3	12	4	29
New Orleans	..	..	1	1
Baton Rouge	3	..	..	1
Lake Charles	..	..	1	1
Alexandria	..	1	..	1
Elsewhere in Louisiana	..	..	..	3
Texas	3	2	..	4
Other state	1	..	..	1
Military service	1	3	..	..
Total	11	18	6	41

<sup>1</sup>See pages 6-7 for definition.



## Families With Obviously Limited Adjustment Potential

Families with obviously limited adjustment potential (Group 1 families) accounted for about one-fourth of all families in the sample. The 145 families in the group have been further divided into three subgroups, primarily to facilitate discussion of resource control and use: (1) families whose chief income source is from property; (2) nonfarm families whose chief income consists of transfer payments; and (3) farm families, by census definition, whose chief income consists of transfer payments. Each of the subgroups is separately discussed in this section followed by discussion of the group as a whole.

All male heads of the families whose major source of income was transfer payments were over 64 or had a physical disability. All male heads of the families primarily dependent on property income were over 44 years of age; about two-thirds were over 60.

It appears that part-time and residential farming in connection with the receipt of transfer payments is largely a stage in the transition between farm and nonfarm activity. About three-fourths of the male heads of *nonfarm families* in this group were retired farmers. Most of the others had been farm laborers, sawmill workers, or unskilled workers at other nonfarm jobs. About three-fourths of the male household head

TABLE 9.—Land Availability and Use, Rural Families With Obviously Limited Adjustment Potential<sup>1</sup>

Item	Unit	Major income source: transfer payments			Major source of income from farm property
		Nonfarm families	Farm families	Average	
Number of families		75	41	29	
Land owned	Acres	7.7	27.4	59.6	
Land rented in	Acres	..	5.2	2.5	
Land rented out	Acres	6.8	3.9	18.7	
Land operated	Acres	..	28.7	43.4	
Open land	Acres	..	21.6	29.1	
Crops	Acres	..	6.0	6.1	
Cash Crops	Acres	..	3.6	3.0	
Idle cropland and pasture	Acres	..	15.6	23.0	
Unutilized open land	Acres	..	9.3	1.8	
Rent:					
Per acre of open land rented in	Dollars	..	23.25	6.32	
Per acre of open land rented out	Dollars	7.06	22.04	28.55	
Value of farm produce per acre of open land operated	Dollars	..	39.00	38.00	
Farm income per acre of open land operated	Dollars	..	7.36	1.11	
Farm earnings per acre of open land operated	Dollars	..	21.90	16.81	

<sup>1</sup>See page 6 for definition.

of farm families had been full-time farmers for most of their lives; the others had been part-time farmers or nonfarm workers.

Ownership of farm property and the amount of family labor available apparently are the major factors that determine whether any farming operations continue after the family head starts to receive transfer payments. More than three-fourths of the transfer payment recipients who were classed as farm operators owned farm property as compared with only a fifth of those who were classed as nonfarm. Farm households had an average of more than twice as much available male labor as nonfarm households. The size of the family labor force also tended to determine the extent of farming operations by families within the farm subgroup. Farms that could be classed as part-time or commercial, by census definition, had an available male labor force about three times as large as those that were census residential farms.

**TABLE 10.—Labor Availability and Use, Rural Families With Obviously Limited Adjustment Potential<sup>1</sup>**

Item	Major income source: transfer payments		Major source of income: farm property
	Nonfarm families	Farm families	
Number of families	75	41	29
	..... Average hours .....		
Male heads:			
Available	527	862	1,219
Nonfarm work	80	...	21
Farm wage work	47	8	....
Female heads and wives:			
Available	1,511	1,497	1,757
Nonfarm work	32	...	29
Farm wage work	20	15	....
Other males over 14:			
Available	202	1,081	753
Nonfarm work	72	204	263
Farm wage work	57	28	....
Other females over 14:			
Available	374	698	566
Nonfarm work	73	104	201
Farm wage work	20	20	....
Children 10-13:			
Available	100	132	29
Hours remaining:			
Male heads	400	854	1,198
Female heads and wives	1,459	1,482	1,728
Other males	73	849	490
Other females	281	574	365
Children 10-13	100	132	29
Total hours used for farm work	....	832	896

<sup>1</sup>See page 6 for definition.

## **Nonfarm Families With Heads Receiving Transfer Payments**

Among the nonfarm families with obviously limited adjustment potential, 75 depended primarily on transfer payments for their incomes. These families accounted for 13 percent of all households surveyed. They owned about 2 percent of all land owned by sample families. More than half of this land, however, was owned by only two families. Most of the land owned was rented out, at an average rental of \$7.00 per acre of open land (Table 9).

**Labor Use:** Male heads in this group averaged about 18 days of nonfarm work during the year at an average wage of \$2.71 per day, and about 10 days of farm wage work at an average of \$1.68 per day (Table 10). This work was done by a few individuals and generally consisted of caretaker chores, yard work, and similar activities.

The small amount of nonfarm work done by female heads and wives consisted entirely of domestic work at a low wage.

## **Farm Families With Heads Receiving Transfer Payments**

The 41 farm families in Group II whose income consisted chiefly of transfer payments constituted about 7 percent of the sample. They owned slightly more than 4 percent of the farm land in the sample and operated slightly less than 4 percent. The amount of land owned and operated was typically small. Only one family had more than 100 acres. Two families in the group had farm incomes of more than \$1,000.

**Land Use:** About 60 percent of these farms were residential units by census definition. Little use was made of the land operated except for that used on some farms for one or two cows. On the average more than two-fifths of the open land operated was unused (Table 9). The level of utilization of the remaining land was low. The total value of agricultural produce, including the value of farm privileges, was only \$39 per acre of open land operated.

**Labor Use:** Neither male family heads nor female heads and wives did any nonfarm work. They performed a very small amount of farm wage work (Table 10). Although the presence of other family members appeared to affect the extent of farming operations, indications are that their labor was not fully utilized in farming. On those farms—almost half—on which there were no such family members the average amount of family farm labor used was about 470 hours. On farms where they were present, the average amount of family labor used was about 1,165 hours. Thus it appears that these family members contributed an average of about 700 hours of labor on those farms where they were present.

**Capital:** Net worth of these families averaged about \$7,000. The estimated value of farm assets used was \$7,700, of which \$750 was in livestock and machinery.

## **Families With Primary Source of Income From Property**

Twenty-nine of the families in Group II were primarily dependent on property income of less than \$2,000 per year. They make up about 5 percent of the families in the sample. They owned slightly more than 6 percent of the land and operated slightly more than 3 percent. These were largely families with elderly male heads or female heads. However, the average age of family heads was slightly lower than for families receiving transfer payments. The average amount of farm land owned was larger than for families receiving transfer payments, although only about one-tenth of the families owned more than 100 acres. Only 2 of the 29 families in the group were Negro.

**Land Use:** Only about 6 percent of the open land on these farms was unused, but the return to open land operated was low (Table 9). A much larger proportion of land was used for livestock than on those farms where the family received transfer payments. Less than half the families in the group sold farm produce valued at \$250 or more. Farm income and farm earnings per acre of land operated were low.

**Labor Use:** Two of the male heads did a small amount of nonfarm work, one as a carpenter and one as a blacksmith.

One wife worked part-time on the parish bookmobile.

The amount of farm labor furnished by family members, other than family heads and wives, over 14 years of age averaged about the same as for families receiving transfer payments. In families where there were no such members the average amount of family labor used for farming was almost 500 hours; in families where there were such members an average of 1,225 hours of family farm labor was used. Thus other family members contributed almost 800 hours of farm labor on farms where they were present.

**Capital:** The average net worth of these families was slightly more than \$19,000. The average value of farm assets used was about \$14,500, of which slightly more than \$2,000 was in livestock and machinery.

## **Family Income**

Average family incomes of the three subgroups of families considered to have limited adjustment potential are shown in Table 11. The major income differences, aside from differences in source, resulted from differences in incomes of family members other than family heads and wives, and the differences in value of farm privileges in the two farm subgroups. Differences in incomes of other family members are regarded as chance differences. Even when the nonfarm employment income of these other members is included, however, the per capita income received by the three subgroups is fairly similar.

## **Adjustment Potential**

**Male Heads:** It may be assumed that all of the male heads in this group have practically no nonfarm employment potential. Most are



**TABLE 11.—Income of Rural Families With Obviously Limited Adjustment Potential**

Income source	Major income source: transfer payments		Major source of income: farm property
	Nonfarm families	Farm families	
Number of families	75	41	29
	Dollars per family		
Welfare payments	760	736	53
Other transfer payments	342	345	8
Property rental, leases, and royalties	44	135	950
Work of male heads	37	7	19
Work of female heads and wives	14	7	21
Farm income		159	32
Value of home produced food	72	314	457
Total	1,269	1,703	1,540
Work of other family members	159	435	648
Total family earnings	1,428	2,138	2,188
	Dollars per capita		
Per capita family earnings	525	622	783

<sup>1</sup>See page 6 for definition.

over 65 years old or have some physical disability. The general level of education is extremely low. Most have already made any income-generating adjustments that they will make in the form of obtaining transfer payments or renting and leasing land. And in comparison with the groups from which most of these families came (families on small, low-income farms) their general level of income is high, particularly on a per capita basis. In fact, from the standpoint of income most members of this group are better off than they ever were during their working lives.

From the amount of unused and underutilized land and the amount of family labor that was not used, it is obvious that some farm families in this group could increase farm income. It is not to be expected that many of these families would be interested in intensifying their farm enterprise, but some families, especially in the group receiving property income, already have a considerable investment in livestock, and others could easily increase livestock production. In general, these families, as well as most others in the sample realized low returns from livestock production in relation to the amount invested. However, the general direction of adjustment of most of Group II families presently classed as farm families will be toward the nonfarm category. This will occur as additional family members leave home.

**Wives and Female Heads:** Few of the wives or female heads of families are likely to do much to increase income. Although about a fifth are under 50 years of age, most of them family heads without husbands, only three had more than 8 years of schooling. About half had less than 4 years. Unless the level of economic activity in the area should increase drastically, they are not likely to find nonfarm employment. All of them

lack sufficient land or family labor to attain significant increases in income through farming.

**Other Family Members:** In 145 families in Group II there were, other than family heads, 29 able-bodied males and 21 females over 14 and under 60 years of age, not in school, and not employed at \$2,000 or more (Table 12). This was one male for every five families in the group. One-sixth of these males were under 30 years of age and had 9 or more years of schooling, about half were under 30 and had 5 to 8 years of schooling. These persons should be able to make a transition to nonfarm employment, perhaps with some assistance in locating such employment and in training for it. About one-fourth of these persons appear to be in a low employability status because of age or education, or both.

There was one female in this category for each 6.9 families in the group. Of these, 38 percent were under 30 years of age and had 9 or more years of school. A like percentage were under 30 and had 5 to 8 years of school. Less than one-fourth of these persons could be considered unemployable because of age or education, or both. However, it is likely that most who leave home will do so through marriage and probably will not do much nonfarm work.

**TABLE 12.—Family Members Over 14 Years of Age, Other than Head or Wife, Rural Families With Obviously Limited Adjustment Potential<sup>1</sup>**

Item	Male		Female	
	White	Negro	White	Negro
	Number			
Under 30 years of age:				
Employed at \$2,000 or more	3	..	3	..
Employed at less than \$2,000 <sup>2</sup>	..	3	..	1
In school	8	9	9	15
Not in school—not employed				
Under 5 years schooling	..	1	..	1
5-8 years schooling	3	9	2	6
9 or more years schooling	2	2	3	4
30-45 years of age:				
Employed at \$2,000 or more	1	..	2	..
Employed at less than \$2,000 <sup>2</sup>	1	..	1	..
Not employed <sup>2</sup>				
Under 5 years of schooling	..	3	1	..
5-8 years schooling	1	..	..	..
9 or more years schooling	1	..	..	..
45-60 years of age:				
Not employed <sup>2</sup>				
Under 5 years schooling	..	1	..	..
5-8 years schooling	1	..	2	..
9 or more years schooling	1	..	..	..
60 years or older or disabled	6	1	4 <sup>4</sup>	2
Total	28	29	27	29

<sup>1</sup>See page 6 for definition.

<sup>2</sup>Full-time.

<sup>3</sup>Full-time or at \$2,000 or more.

<sup>4</sup>One school teacher included.

## Family Members Who Had Left Home

Approximately half of the family members who had left home from this group since 1945 had completed more than 9 years of school (Table 13). About 8 percent had completed less than 5 years of school. Three eighths of the males were in the laborer and farm occupational groups four-fifths of these had completed less than 9 years of school. Less than one-fifth of the females who had left home were employed. Of those four fifths had completed 9 or more years of school.

Slightly more than half the persons who had left home were no longer in the area. About two-fifths of those not in military service who had left the area had left Louisiana. New Orleans was the favored point of migration in Louisiana.

**TABLE 13.—Distribution of Family Members Who Had Left Home Since 1945 With Respect to Occupation and Location, Rural Families With Obviously Limited Adjustment Potential<sup>1</sup>**

Item	Males			Females		
	Under 5 years school	5-8 years school	9 or more years school	Under 5 years school	5-8 years school	9 or more years school
<b>Occupation:</b>						
Professional	..	..	6	..	..	3
Proprietor	..	..	3	..	..	..
Clerical	..	..	4	..	..	2
Sales	..	1	1	..	1	1
Craftsman	1	2	3	..	..	..
Operative	..	2	5	..	1	..
Service work	..	1	2	..	..	1
Laborer, nonfarm	3	10	3	..	..	..
Farm laborer	..	1	..	..	..	..
Farmer	3	3	2	..	..	..
Military service	..	2	5	..	..	..
Unknown or unemployed	1	1	1	..	..	1
Wife	..	..	..	2	24	20
Total	8	23	35	2	26	28
<b>Location:</b>						
Local area	4	10	10	2	18	12
New Orleans	..	3	5	..	1	4
Baton Rouge	1	1	1	..	1	3
Lake Charles	1	..	5	..	2	..
Alexandria	..	..	..	..	..	2
Elsewhere in Louisiana	..	1	3	..	..	..
Texas	2	4	3	..	1	3
Other state	..	2	3	..	3	4
Military service	..	2	5	..	..	..
Total	8	23	35	2	26	28

<sup>1</sup>See page 6 for definition.

## **Farm Families Primarily Dependent on Farming**

About 43 percent of the sample families were classified as Group III families—farm families primarily dependent on farming that were neither obviously without an income problem nor obviously of limited adjustment potential. In order to examine more closely the personal and farm characteristics of these 248 families they were separated into subgroups. They were first divided according to size of farm operated, then each of the three size categories was divided into nonowner and owner families, and these were further broken down according to whether or not the family heads or their wives received incomes from nonfarm employment.

Because of their numerical importance the families operating the smallest farms are discussed separately from the families operating farms in the two larger size categories. Some parts of the discussion relating to families on farms in the two larger size groups are combined because of the smaller numbers of families involved.

### **Farm Families Operating Small Farms**

About 70 percent of the Group III families were on farms definitely too small to earn \$2,000 farm income on a sustained basis. These 177 families constituted the hard core of low-income farm families in Group III. The family heads were all primarily farmers, but they operated less than 50 acres of open land and less than 30 acres of cropland. Six of the families actually received more than \$2,000 farm income in the survey year mainly as a result of extremely high yields, and in any given year it is to be expected that a very small proportion of these families will receive an unusually high farm income. However, this does not disturb the major premise that these farms are not capable of sustaining such a level of income.

Incomes of the four subgroups of small farm families are shown in Table 14. Except for the owner families with heads having nonfarm employment, farm incomes to these subgroups were very similar. The major differences in family incomes resulted from the nonfarm employment income of the operators. Owner families had small incomes from property and nonowner families had slightly higher transfer payment incomes. Even with nonfarm employment income, family money income (excluding the value of farm privileges) did not reach \$2,000 for any subgroup. Per capita family earnings were low for all subgroups, but especially so for the large number on nonowner families in which the head did not have nonfarm employment.

### **Nonowner Families In Which the Heads Received Less Than \$250 from Nonfarm Employment**

About 18 percent of the families in the sample were nonowner families in Group III whose heads received less than \$250 from nonfarm employment. These 101 families operated about 9 percent of the farm land



**TABLE 14.—Income of Group III Families Operating Farms Definitely Too Small to Sustain \$2,000 Farm Income**

Income source	Less than \$250 nonfarm employment income to family head		\$250 or more nonfarm employment income to family head	
	Nonowners	Owners	Nonowners	Owners
Number of families	101	38	17	21
	Dollars per family			
Farm income	836	830	866	689
Work of male heads	27	15	600	913
Work of wives	16	31	49	5
Transfer payments	72	32	52	14
Other nonwork income	4	87	10	105
Value of farm produced food	426	475	393	567
Total	1,381	1,470	1,970	2,293
Work of other family members	95	241	8	106
Total family earnings	1,476	1,711	1,978	2,399
	Dollars per capita			
Per capita family earnings	268	372	412	436

in the sample. The average rental for land rented in was almost \$25 per acre of open land (Table 15).

**Land Use:** Less than half the open land operated by these families was in cash crops and about one-eighth was not used for either crops or livestock. However, the gross value of product per acre of open land was high as compared with most other groups. Farm income per acre of open land, at about \$32, also was relatively high.

**Labor Use:** About 10 percent of the male heads had nonfarm employment for a few days during the year at an average wage of about \$6 per day. Most of them worked at agricultural processing plants, such as rice driers, sugar mills, potato kilns, and canning plants. A few were employed on road work or at local construction work (Table 16).

Three wives had some nonfarm work, two as household help and one in a canning plant.

Family labor used during the year on all farms in this subgroup averaged 1,900 hours. Other than family heads and wives, there were family members over 14 years of age on about half of these farms. Family labor used on farms without other family members averaged about 1,790 hours; on farms where there were other family members it averaged about 2,025 hours. Thus, either these family members performed very little farm labor or the labor of family heads and wives was reduced on the farms where they were present. For whatever reason, available labor was considerably underused on these farms.

**Capital:** The average net worth of these nonowner families was about \$550. The value of farm assets used averaged almost \$7,900, of which about \$900 was in machinery and livestock.



TABLE 15.—Land Availability and Use, Group III Families Operating Farms Definitely Too Small to Sustain \$2,000 Farm Income

Item	Unit	Less than \$250 nonfarm employment income to family head		\$250 or more nonfarm employment income to family head	
		Nonowners	Owners	Nonowners	Owners
Number of families:		101	38	17	21
		Average			
Land owned	Acres	....	27.8	....	26.5
Land rented in	Acres	27.8	3.4	29.3	3.0
Land rented out	Acres	....	.1	....	.9
Land operated	Acres	27.8	31.1	29.3	28.6
Open land	Acres	26.7	27.8	27.9	23.6
Crops	Acres	19.2	16.9	17.8	12.6
Cash crops	Acres	12.2	10.4	10.5	8.0
Idle cropland and pasture	Acres	7.5	10.9	10.1	11.0
Unutilized open land	Acres	3.7	1.3	1.3	3.8
Rent per acre of open land rented in	Dollars	24.70	21.08	26.29	19.38
Rent per acre of open land rented out	Dollars	....	15.00	....	68.80
Farm produce value per acre of open land operated	Dollars	91.00	79.00	95.00	87.00
Farm income per acre of open land operated	Dollars	31.31	29.86	31.04	29.19
Farm earnings per acre of open land operated	Dollars	47.27	46.94	45.12	53.22

**TABLE 16.—Labor Availability and Use, Group III Families Operating Farms Definitely Too Small to Sustain \$2,000 Farm Income**

Item	Less than \$250 nonfarm employment income to family head		\$250 or more nonfarm employment income to family head	
	Nonowners	Owners	Nonowners	Owners
Number of families	101	38	17	21
	Average hours			
Male heads:				
Available	2,059	1,751	2,080	2,080
Nonfarm work	20	12	459	652
Farm wage work	24	8	14	57
Wives and female heads:				
Available	1,998	1,832	2,080	2,080
Nonfarm work	38	50	120	.....
Farm wage work	9	9	14	10
Other males over 14:				
Available	634	744	281	485
Nonfarm work	72	109	.....	88
Farm wage work	7	57	9	13
Other females over 14:				
Available	669	602	404	317
Nonfarm work	45	79	.....	.....
Farm wage work	9	19	9	110
Children 10-13:				
Available	313	208	73	317
Farm wage work	.....	4	.....	11
Hours remaining:				
Male heads	2,015	1,731	1,607	1,371
Wives and female heads	1,951	1,773	1,946	2,070
Other males	555	578	272	384
Other females	615	504	393	207
Children 10-13	313	204	73	306
Total hours used for farm work	1,902	1,575	1,828	1,343

**Adjustment Potential:** The nonfarm employment potential of the family heads in this subgroup was extremely low. Almost half were over 45 years of age and about four-fifths had less than 5 years of schooling. Only 17 percent were under 45 and had more than 4 years of schooling; about 3 percent were under 45 and had more than 8 years of schooling.

About two-fifths of the operators under 45, one-half of those from 45 to 54, and two-thirds of those over 54 stated that they would not accept nonfarm employment under any conditions.

Fifty-two percent of the operators under 35 years of age, 23 percent of those from 35 to 44, 18 percent of those from 45 to 54, and 5 percent of those over 54 thought they could find nonfarm employment if they wanted to. The average wage at which they thought they could find nonfarm employment was \$2,600 per year for those under 35 and about \$2,100 per year for each of the three groups over 35. Some of these operators were among those who stated that they would not accept

nonfarm employment. The others indicated that the wage they could get was lower than they would accept.

The average wage quoted as that at which nonfarm employment would be accepted if it meant moving off the farm was \$3,200 per year for operators under 35, \$3,000 for those 35 to 44, and \$2,300 for those in the two older age groups.

On the basis of age, education, stated attitude toward nonfarm work, and awareness of nonfarm opportunities in relation to acceptable nonfarm wages, it is estimated that about one-third of those under 35, one-fourth of those 35 to 44, and one-twelfth of those over 45 possibly may move into nonfarm employment. This would reduce by about one-fifth the number of operators in this low-income farm group. These estimates assume no large change in the general level of economic activity and growth. A large expansion of industrial activity in the area might draw upon some individuals who otherwise are not highly employable. A decline in economic activity would retard movement toward nonfarm employment. The estimates also assume no large scale or intensive assistance in job location or placement.

About 3 percent of this subgroup had moved out of full-time farming between the end of 1956 and mid-1957.

One-fifth of the heads of these nonowner families were above 54 years of age in 1956, and will, therefore, be eligible for old age welfare assistance by 1965. All are likely to move into this program. It will be recalled from the discussion of the welfare recipient group that there is a strong tendency for renters and share croppers to move to the nonfarm status when they become eligible for welfare assistance. At the least they will move into the part-time and residential category.

By 1965, then, the number of sample families in this subgroup could be reduced some 40 percent by losses to nonfarm employment plus retirements. The net reduction in number of families of this type within the area will depend upon the number of young persons who enter farming at this level. In the sample, entry of operators under 35 years of age into this category appears to have been at the rate of about 2 percent per year. This rate would just about offset reductions due to nonfarm employment. Whether this rate of entry is maintained in the area will depend on whether the number of young people obtaining nonfarm employment increases.

According to the above estimates, at least 60 percent of the *existing* families in this subgroup will still be farming in 1965. What can be expected in the way of farm adjustments to increase their incomes?

These people face many obstacles to farming adjustments. The most obvious is the small size of their farms. If a net return of \$100 per acre were realized on every acre in crops, these families still would average a net income of less than \$2,000 per year. Before farm income can be increased appreciably some way must be found to increase the size of farm. At the present rate or return to land on these farms, average farm

size would have to be more than doubled in order to yield a \$2,000 income. However, landholdings in the area, with the exception of a few plantations, are small. Consequently, the usual parcel of land available for rent or purchase is small. Only about one-fourth of the operators thought it would be possible to obtain additional acreage close enough to their present farms to make operation of the additional land profitable.

A second obstacle to farming adjustments is capital limitation. If farm size were increased, new investments of several thousand dollars per farm would be required for mechanization alone. Yet these operators have little or no borrowing capacity. About three-fourths had a net worth at the time of the survey of less than \$1,000, not including household goods; more than a third had a negative net worth. Only 6 percent had a net worth of as much as \$2,000.

A third major obstacle to farming adjustments by these families is limited production alternatives, partly associated with current programs and with lack of markets. The farms are too small to sustain most commercial livestock enterprises and many of them would be too small even if their size were doubled. Cotton, sugarcane, and rice are the major cash crop alternatives in the area (all three are not suitable for all parts of the area). Generally, these small farms are limited to a small allotment of one of these crops. Cotton allotments are generally 5 to 10 acres. Corn is produced as feed for workstock and for livestock produced for home use, but there is little market for any small surplus that might exist. Sweetpotatoes are a possible alternative or supplementary cash crop, but as produced on these farms the degree of success in their production is highly variable. Also, prices for sweetpotatoes fluctuate widely from year to year, depending upon production. Therefore, farm income is tied almost directly to the acreage of allotment crops and the yield obtained from them. An increase in total farm size without an increase in allotments of major cash crops would not result in a corresponding increase in farm income unless profitable cash alternatives could be found.

A fourth, and by no means the least, obstacle to farming adjustments is the lack of awareness and motivation. The majority of operators apparently either do not recognize any problem or have become resigned to their present status. In answer to a question concerning present farm size only one-eighth indicated that they thought their farms were too small. When asked if they would like to make any change that they thought might increase farm income, two-thirds answered "no." Of those who did express a desire for some change almost half mentioned more allotments, about a fourth wanted to move up in tenure status, about a fourth said they would like to buy tractors and a very small proportion expressed the desire to operate larger farms or make some change in their present farms.

The use of credit by most of these operators is limited to borrowing



a few hundred dollars annually for living expenses, fertilizer, and seed. More than half of those who used credit borrowed from their landlords or other individuals, a fifth borrowed from merchants or ginners, and a fourth from lending agencies. About three-fourths indicated that they received all the credit they could use. Of those who indicated a desire for more credit, two-fifths said they could not obtain more, and three-fifths gave an answer involving risk or aversion to debt as the reason for not using more.

An examination of the individual schedules indicated that a negligible proportion of the operators are "on the way up" in farming. There appears to be little likelihood of much volitional adjustment to increase incomes within this subgroup. Since some of the operators change farms frequently (although one-fifth had been on the same farm for 15 years or more) some of them can be expected eventually to move to larger farms as a matter of chance. However, as indicated above, this would not automatically assure a larger farm income. Eventually, also, some families undoubtedly will become owners, but they are likely to become owners of small farms. Major changes in farm incomes can be expected to result only from external influences.

#### **Owner Families In Which the Heads Received Less than \$250 from Nonfarm Employment**

The heads of 38 families in Group III, constituting almost 7 percent of the families surveyed, were owners of small farms who had earned less than \$250 in nonfarm employment during the year. They owned about 4 percent of the land and operated the same percentage.

**Land Use:** These families had an average of about 10 acres in cash crops, which was slightly more than one-third of the open land operated. There was little unused land, but a large proportion of the land was underutilized, as indicated by the large percentage of idle cropland and pasture and the low gross value of product per acre as compared with farms of comparable renter families. Farm income per acre was about in line with that of the renter families, although renters paid out more than a fourth of the gross product to landlords.

**Labor Use:** Three of the male heads of these families had a small amount of nonfarm employment, two at road work and one at a potato kiln.

One wife worked at a school lunch room during the school year, one worked for a short period in a canning plant, and one did a few days of household work.

Less farm labor was performed by these families than by comparable renter families, partly because of smaller acreages in cash crops, partly because of greater use of machinery, and partly because more labor was hired.

The average amount of family farm labor used was 1,575 hours. Slightly more than half of the families had members over 14 other than

the heads and their wives. On these farms, an average of about 40 hours more family farm labor was used than on the farms not having other family members over 14.

**Capital:** The net worth of the families averaged slightly more than \$9,000. Assets used were valued at almost \$11,000, of which \$1,600 was in livestock and machinery.

**Adjustment Potential:** The prospects for movement of these family heads into nonfarm employment are poorer than for comparable nonowner owners. Less than a third of the male heads were under 45 years of age at the time of the survey less than a sixth were under 45 and had completed more than four years of school. On the basis of the factors used to evaluate nonfarm employment prospects of nonowner heads, it is estimated that no more than 10 to 15 percent of these operators will ever move into nonfarm employment. One of the operators had become a full-time country store keeper between the end of 1956 and mid-1957 but planned to maintain farming operations. This type of activity, school bus driving, and similar local employment is most likely to draw upon heads in this group.

Approximately a third of these existing families are likely to be retired from full-time farming by 1965. They will either become welfare payment recipients, live on property rentals, or receive income from both these sources.

What are the prospects of these families for increasing farm income?

In general, these owner operators face the same size and production alternative limitations as the comparable nonowner group. About one-fifth thought it would be possible to buy or rent additional land in the vicinity of their present farm.

With respect to capital, most of these operators were in a much better position than their nonowner counterparts. More than one-third had a net worth of more than \$10,000. These operators could finance almost any of the improvements that would be required in connection with an increase in farm size if they were willing to use their borrowing capacity. About half of these, however, were nearing retirement. About two-fifths had net worths of \$5,000 to \$10,000. These also could finance a considerable amount of expansion and improvement in farming. The remainder, about one-fourth, had net worths of less than \$5,000, with about half of these less than \$2,000. In terms of borrowing capacity, they were little better off than the mass of the renter group.

In terms of attitudes and awareness, the families in this group appeared to be similar to those in the renter group. Only about a third expressed the opinion that their farms were too small. Less than a third indicated that they could think of any change that might increase farm income. More than half the affirmative answers to this question involved the planting of more allotment crops. The remaining answers involved increasing farm size or changing enterprises, or both.

Two-thirds of these families had used credit the previous year, mostly

for living expenses, fertilizer, and seed. Almost half of those who borrowed used lending agencies. The remainder were about evenly split between those who borrowed from individuals and those who borrowed from merchants or dealers. About a third of the operators felt that they could make profitable use of more credit, but of these about one-half thought they could not get more credit and the others expressed a distaste for debt or fear of inability to repay.

### **Nonowner Families in Which the Heads Received More than \$250 from Nonfarm Employment**

Seventeen nonowner families in Group III, or about one-seventh of those on farms in the smallest size category, received more than \$250 from nonfarm employment of the family head in the survey year. These families accounted for about 3 percent of the sample. They operated less than 2 percent of the farm land operated by sample families.

**Land Use:** Land use by these families was similar to the use by the other families in the same farm-size category (Table 15). A slightly smaller proportion of the open land they operated was used for crops and cash crops and a larger proportion for livestock than was used for these purposes by the nonowner families with less nonfarm employment. Gross production per acre of open land was high compared with that on other small farms in Group III. Net returns to land did not differ greatly from those of the other groups. As with the other families on small farms, the amount of land actually unused was small, but a considerable portion of the land operated was not used intensively.

**Labor Use:** All the male family heads had part-time nonfarm employment, averaging 57 days for the survey year. The average wage received was \$10.34 per day. About two-thirds of these operators were employed in jobs allied with farming—working in cotton gins, potato kilns, sugar mills, or rice driers, or measuring cotton acreage. The others worked on construction jobs, in service stations, and at various other jobs.

Two wives had part-time nonfarm employment at low wage rates, one in a pressing shop and the other as a household worker.

The average amount of family farm labor used during the year on these farms was 1,828 hours. Only four families had members over 14 years of age other than the heads or their wives. On these four farms, the average amount of family farm labor used was about 1,000 hours more than on those farms not having such family members.

**Capital:** The average net worth of these families was \$1,420. The value of assets used averaged about \$11,500, of which almost \$2,000 was in livestock and machinery.

**Adjustment Potential:** As a group, family heads on these farms are younger and have a higher level of education than those on comparable farms who did little nonfarm work. All were under 45 years of age, and about two-thirds were under 35. Almost two-thirds had completed



5 or more years of school and almost one-third had completed 9 or more years.

About three-fifths of these operators said they could obtain full-time nonfarm work if they wanted to. The average wage mentioned was about \$2,000 per year. More than half said they would accept nonfarm employment even if it meant moving off the farm. The average wage at which they would move was \$3,250 per year. It is estimated that one-third to one-half of these operators eventually will move into full-time nonfarm employment.

These families face the same physical obstacles to farming adjustments as do those whose heads had no nonfarm employment, but they have a slightly better capital position. Almost half reported a net worth of more than \$1,000 and more than one-fourth reported a net worth of more than \$2,000. Almost one-third owned tractors and allied equipment.

Despite the advantage in age and education and the small advantage in net worth these operators have, the combinations of answers to attitudinal questions were very similar to those of the group without nonfarm employment. About a third indicated that they thought their farms were too small, but only a fifth expressed a desire to make any farming changes. These changes included increases in cotton acreage, ownership of machinery, and farm ownership. The use of credit was low and aversion to borrowing was high. The general level of awareness of opportunities for increasing farm income was low. Therefore, while some of these operators who stay in farming may make slightly more progress than those in the comparable group without nonfarm employment, internal farming adjustments are likely to be limited.

### **Owner Families in Which the Heads Received More than \$250 from Nonfarm Employment**

The heads of 21 of the Group III owner families on small farms received more than \$250 from nonfarm employment. These families accounted for almost 4 percent of the families in the sample. They owned slightly more than 4 percent, and operated slightly less than 4 percent, of the land owned and operated by sample families. They represented more than a third of the farm owner families in the small-farm category. The average level of intensity of farming operations was slightly lower than that of the other subgroups in this size category. Compared with the comparable nonowner group, there was more nonfarm employment and less farm income. It is possible that this was the result of greater flexibility and freedom of choice associated with ownership.

**Land Use:** About one-sixth of the open land on these farms was unused (Table 15). Approximately one-third was in cash crops. Returns to land were comparable to returns to land on farms in other subgroups of families on small farms.

**Labor Use:** All male heads of these families had nonfarm employment. They averaged about 82 days of nonfarm work during the year.



More than one-third worked as carpenters or carpenters' helpers, or at some other construction job. About one-fifth worked at logging or saw-milling jobs. One-seventh worked in agricultural processing jobs. The rest worked at miscellaneous jobs such as oil field and dredge boat work. The average wage received was approximately \$11 per day.

Wives in this group did no nonfarm work.

About three-fifths of these families had no able-bodied members over 14 except the heads and wives. On these farms the average amount of family labor used was about 1,350 hours. On farms with other family members approximately the same amount of family labor was used. Thus, other family members in these families either performed little farm labor or the heads and their wives performed less labor than on the other farms. The average amount of family farm labor used by this subgroup was less than for other families on small farms because of the smaller acreage of cash crops and because tractor equipment was used on about half the farms.

**Capital:** The average net worth of these families was approximately \$7,500. The value of assets used in farming was \$8,500, of which \$1,450 was in livestock and machinery.

**Adjustment Potential:** About three-fourths of the operators were under 45 years of age. Three-fifths were under 45 and had more than 4 years of schooling. Four of the 21 operators in this group did very little farming. It is likely that they were moving toward complete nonfarm employment. An additional one-fifth might eventually accept full-time nonfarm employment, with most remaining in part-time farming. One family head had accepted full-time nonfarm employment between the end of 1956 and mid-1957, and one was nearing retirement.

A number of operators in this subgroup appeared to have a strong attachment for farming. A few indicated that the major reason for working part-time was to help accomplish some farm objective. More than half indicated that their farms were too small. However, less than a third mentioned specific changes to increase income. These changes included shifting enterprises (to dairying, for example), increasing farm size, and buying machinery.

Only one-fifth of these families had a net worth of more than \$10,000. About two-fifths had a net worth of \$5,000 to \$10,000, and two-fifths had less than \$5,000. About half the group made use of credit, which 90 percent of them obtained from lending agencies. Slightly more than one-fourth said that they could make more use of credit but that they could not get more or were afraid of debt.

With the exception of a small number with relatively large net worths, this subgroup faces about the same obstacles to farming adjustment as other subgroups on farms in this size category. Most of them are not likely to increase farm income by very much. Some operators, however, seemed to be making progress, and it is estimated that about one-fifth

of the 21 families will become fairly successful in farming by their own efforts.

## **Summary of Adjustment Potential of Families on Small Farms Existing Families**

Of the 177 Group III families on small farms, it is estimated that by 1965 almost one-fifth will have retired from full-time farming, either obtaining coverage under welfare programs or renting their land out, or both. Another one-fifth might move into nonfarm employment, either leaving farming or moving into the part-time category. However, the net loss of families of this type in the area is not likely to be of this magnitude. Many who accept nonfarm employment must do so at low wages and often at unstable jobs. Particularly among nonowners, there is some shifting back and forth between farming and nonfarm employment. Also, the survey showed that the recent rates of entry into the nonowner groups had been about sufficient to offset movements from these groups into nonfarm employment. The proportion of recent entries was not as high for owners as for nonowners. Among the sample families, a number of the younger owners had entered farming following World War II. The rate of entry of owners had been low since that time.

Only a very small proportion of family heads on farms at this size level are likely to make adjustments to increase income. Ten percent is a generous estimate of the number in the sample who appeared to have the combination of ability and inclination needed to move ahead in farming.

### **Adjustment Potential of Other Family Members On Small Farms**

In the 177 Group III families on small farms there were, other than the family heads, 41 male members over 14, not in school and not employed at \$2,000 or more. This is one for each 4.3 families. One-fifth were under 30 years of age and had completed 9 or more years of school (Table 17). These persons should have little difficulty in adjusting to nonfarm employment. Almost half were under 30 and had completed 5 to 8 years of school. At least a part of these would have difficulty finding nonfarm employment offering much opportunity without further training. Almost a third, who had less than 5 years of school, would almost certainly find nonfarm employment opportunities limited.

In these families there were 34 able-bodied females, other than wives or family heads, not in school and not employed at a wage of \$2,000 or more. About a third of these were under 30 and had completed 9 or more years of school, a third were under 30 and had completed 5 to 8 years of school, a third had completed less than 5 years of school or were over 45 or both.

**TABLE 17.—Characteristics of Family Members Over 14 Years of Age, Other than Head or Wife, Rural Families Operating Farms Definitely Too Small to Sustain \$2,000 Farm Income**

Item	Male		Female	
	White	Negro	White	Negro
	Number			
Under 30 years of age:				
Employed at \$2,000 or more	1	..	..	1
Employed at less than \$2,000 <sup>1</sup>	1	..	1	..
In school	19	13	13	27
Not in school				
Under 5 years schooling	5	6	1	3
5-8 years schooling	5	14	1	10
9 or more years schooling	4	4	3	7
30-45 years of age:				
Not employed <sup>2</sup>				
Under 5 years schooling	..	1	..	2
45-60 years of age:				
Not employed <sup>2</sup>				
Under 5 years schooling	..	1	1	3
5-8 years schooling	..	..	2	..
60 years or older or disabled	..	2	1	4
Total	35	41	23	57

<sup>1</sup>Full-time.

<sup>2</sup>Full-time or at \$2,000 or more.

### Family Members Who Had Left Home From Small Farms

Less than two-fifths of the persons who had left these small-farm families had completed 9 or more years of school (Table 18); more than a fourth had completed less than 5 years. More than three-fifths were Negroes. More than half the males were in the laborer and farm occupational groups; more than four-fifths of these had completed less than 9 years of school. Less than one-eighth of the females who had left home were employed.

One-half of those who had left home were still in the area. Of those who had left the area, about one-fourth had migrated to New Orleans and almost two-fifths had left Louisiana. More than two-thirds of those who left the state went to Texas.

### Farm Families Operating Medium-Size Farms

Farms are considered to be large enough to approach a \$2,000 farm income, on a sustained basis, if they contain 50 to 100 acres of open land or 30 to 50 acres of cropland, or both. Ten percent of the non-owner families and 40 percent of the owner families in this subgroup had farm incomes exceeding \$2,000.

Of the 248 families in Group III, 45 families operated farms of this size. Incomes of Group III families on these medium-sized farms and on large farms are shown in Table 19, by tenure status.

**TABLE 18.—Distribution of Family Members Who Had Left Home Since 1945 With Respect to Occupation and Location, Group III Families Operating Farms Too Small to Earn \$2,000 Farm Income**

Item	Males			Females		
	Under 5 years school	5-8 years school	9 or more years school	Under 5 years school	5-8 years school	9 or more years school
<b>Occupation:</b>						
Professional	..	..	1	..	..	1
Clerical	..	2	..	..	..	1
Sales	..	1	1	..	..	..
Craftsman	..	2	1	..	..	..
Operative	1	1	5	..	..	..
Service	1	1	3	1	1	1
Laborer, nonfarm	5	7	4	..	..	..
Farm laborer	1	1	..	..	..	..
Farmer	2	5	..	..	..	..
Student	..	1	1	..	..	1
Military service	1	..	..	..	..	..
Unknown	..	1	..	..	..	..
Wife	..	..	..	4	24	17
Total	11	22	16	5	25	21
<b>Location:</b>						
Local area	6	10	6	5	16	7
New Orleans	..	6	2	..	..	4
Baton Rouge	..	..	1	..	1	4
Lake Charles	2	..	..	..	1	1
Alexandria	..	..	2	..	..	..
Elsewhere in Louisiana	..	2	..	..	1	2
Texas	..	2	3	..	6	2
Other state	2	1	2	..	..	1
Military service or unknown	1	1	..	..	..	..
Total	11	22	16	5	25	21

### Nonowner Families

The 30 nonowner families operating farms in this size category accounted for about 5 percent of the sample families. They operated slightly more than 4 percent of the farm land operated by all families in the sample groups.

**Land Use:** Only about 4 percent of the open land in these farms was considered to be unused, but less than half of the open land was in cash crops (Table 20). In terms of open land, cropland, and cash crops, these farms were about 75 percent larger than the farms of nonowner families on farms considered to be definitely too small to attain \$2,000 farm income. The average cotton acreage was about 40 percent larger, and farm income was about 50 percent higher. As the difference in farm income was only slightly greater than the increase in cotton acreage, it may be inferred that the larger acreages on these farms, except



TABLE 19.—Income of Group III Families Operating Farms Large Enough to Approach or Attain \$2,000 Farm Income

Income source	Medium-size farms		Large farms	
	Nonowners	Owners	Nonowners	Owners
Number of families	30	15	10	16
	Dollars per family			
Farm income	1,259	1,831	3,067	2,191
Work of male heads	122	35	60	12
Work of wives	3	40		30
Transfer payments	78	70	220	140
Other nonwork income		161	90	344
Value of farm privileges	611	630	733	703
Total	2,073	2,767	4,170	3,420
Work of other family members	193	7	18	51
Total family earnings	2,266	2,774	4,188	3,471
	Dollars per capita			
Family earnings	380	630	974	793

insofar as they resulted in larger allotment acreages, were not effectively utilized. This is further indicated by the fact that the gross value of product per acre of open land on these farms was smaller than that on the small farms operated by nonowners.

**Labor Use:** Seven of the male heads in this group had part-time nonfarm employment. Three had more than \$250 income from nonfarm work. Part-time work consisted of construction labor, storekeeping, logging, work at a rice drier, and work at a canning plant. The average wage received was about \$6.50 per day.

No wives in the group had any nonfarm employment.

More than two-thirds of these families had family members, other than heads or wives, who were over 14 years of age. The average amount of family labor used on the farm was 2,767 hours for all farms. Those families having other family members averaged about 525 hours more of family labor use than those without other family members (Table 21).

**Capital:** These families averaged a net worth of \$1,375. The average value of farm assets used was slightly under \$15,000, of which about \$1,900 was in livestock and machinery.

**Adjustment Potential:** The likelihood of many of these household heads moving into nonfarm employment is small. Only two-fifths were under 45 years of age. Less than one-fourth were under 45 and had completed more than 4 years of school. None had completed more than 8 years of school. Two-thirds of those under 45 either stated positively that they would not accept nonfarm employment or named wage rates much higher than they were likely to obtain. One of these heads had left farming for construction work between the end of 1956 and mid-1957, and it appeared likely that two or three more might leave.

**TABLE 20.—Land Availability and Use, Group III Families Operating Farms Large Enough to Approach or Attain a \$2,000 Farm Income**

Item	Unit	Medium-size farms		Large farms	
		Nonowners	Owners	Nonowners	Owners
Number of families		30	15	10	16
		Average			
Land owned	Acres	....	47.2	....	94.0
Land rented in	Acres	45.8	14.9	182.4	43.9
Land rented out	Acres	....	....	2.5	10.9
Land operated	Acres	45.8	62.1	179.9	127.0
Open land	Acres	45.5	58.8	177.4	104.1
Crops	Acres	35.5	23.1	118.8	56.8
Cash crops	Acres	21.5	14.5	105.4	40.3
Idle cropland and pasture	Acres	10.0	35.7	58.6	47.3
Unutilized open land	Acres	1.8	8.1	27.8	10.1
Rent per acre of open land:					
Rented in	Dollars	21.24	7.74	28.76	25.86
Rented out	Dollars	....	....	30.00	18.06
Farm produce value per acre of open land operated	Dollars	80	75	79	94
Farm income per acre of open land operated	Dollars	27.67	31.14	17.29	21.05
Farm earnings per acre of open land operated	Dollars	41.10	41.85	21.42	27.79

**TABLE 21.—Labor Availability and Use, Group III Families Operating Farms Large Enough to Approach or Attain \$2,000 Farm Income**

	Medium-size farms		Large farms	
	Nonowners	Owners	Nonowners	Owners
Number of families	30	15	10	16
..... Average hours .....				
Male heads:				
Available	2,045	2,080	2,080	1,950
Nonfarm work	136	22	35	10
Farm wage work	18	19	....	....
Wives:				
Available	2,080	2,080	1,872	1,950
Nonfarm work	....	28	....	30
Farm wage work	5	14	....	....
Other males over 14:				
Available	1,262	264	465	585
Nonfarm work	142	....	....	90
Farm wage work	....	10	....	....
Other females over 14:				
Available	1,435	162	374	156
Nonfarm work	138	....	....	....
Farm wage work	1	....	32	....
Children 10-13:				
Available	402	277	250	364
Farm wage work	2	....	....	....
Hours remaining:				
Male heads	1,891	2,039	2,045	1,940
Wives	2,075	2,038	1,872	1,920
Other males	1,120	254	465	495
Other females	1,296	162	342	156
Children 10-13	400	277	250	364
Total hours used for farm work	2,767	2,340	2,585	1,207

Among the heads over 45 years of age, about one-fifth indicated that they would accept nonfarm employment, but only one had any idea as to the possibility of finding employment at anywhere near \$2,500, the average wage quoted at which employment would be accepted.

One-fifth of the operators were over 55 years of age and likely to move into retirement by 1965 or before. It appears that no more than 10 to 15 percent of these family heads are likely to leave farming for nonfarm employment.

Seventeen percent of the operators in this subgroup had entered farming since 1945, seven percent of them since 1950. On the basis of these figures, it appears that, among families of this type, losses to nonfarm employment are not likely to exceed entries of new farmers.

With respect to farming adjustments to increase income, these families are in a similar position to that of comparable families on farms too small to approach a \$2,000 farm income. They are on larger farms, but their average net worth is still low. Almost half had net worths of less than \$1,000, one-third had net worths of \$1,000 to \$2,000, and only

one-fifth had net worths of \$2,000 to \$5,000. Practically none had a capital position strong enough to finance substantial improvements. As on the small farms, the choice of production alternatives was small. Farm income was still tied very closely to cotton allotments which, although larger than on the small farms, were not large enough to result in a \$2,000 farm income.

Only two of the 30 operators regarded their farms as too small. Only three indicated that it would be possible to increase farm size at their present location through renting or buying. Only three indicated that they would like to make any changes in farming: two wanted more cotton acreage and one wanted to become an owner.

Eighty-seven percent of the families used credit, usually a few hundred dollars for fertilizer, seed, and living expenses. One-fourth of those who used credit borrowed from lending agencies. One-fifth said they would like to use more credit but were afraid of getting too far in debt.

### **Owner Families**

Fifteen of the Group III families on medium-sized farms were owners. These families accounted for slightly less than 3 percent of the families in the sample. They owned slightly less than 3 percent and operated slightly more than 3 percent of the land operated by sample families.

**Land Use:** It is estimated that about one-eighth of the open land in these farms was unused (Table 20). However, land use apparently was more intensive on the portion of the land used than on comparable nonowner farms, although a smaller proportion of the land was in crops and cash crops. Three of these farms were dairy or livestock farms with little land in crops. Gross product per acre of open land, at \$75, was slightly lower than for nonowner families. However, farm income per acre of open land was higher.

**Labor Use:** There was little off-farm work by family heads or their wives. One male head was employed for a short period of time at carpentry work, and one wife was employed for about two months as a librarian.

Six of these families had family members over 14 years of age, other than heads and wives. These families used about 800 hours more family labor on the farm than did the families that did not have other members over 14. An average of 2,340 hours of family labor was used by all farms in the group.

**Capital:** The net worth of these families averaged about \$17,000. The estimated value of farm assets used was \$21,000, of which about \$3,900 was in livestock and machinery.

**Adjustment Potential:** Four of the 15 family heads in this subgroup were under 45 years of age. None of the four had completed less than 6 years of school and two had completed 9 or more years. Only one indi-



cated that there was any possibility of accepting nonfarm employment, and the wage he would require was high. The likelihood of any of the family heads over 45 years of age accepting nonfarm employment also seemed low. About one-fifth of the operators had entered farming since 1945.

Most of the families appeared to be making fairly efficient use of their resources, at least relative to other families in Group III. Most of them would need to increase farm size to make substantial increases in farm incomes. About one-fourth, however, had very small farming operations relative to the amount of land available. This was especially true for those approaching retirement age with no other family members present besides the head and wife.

Only one-fifth of the families had net worths of less than \$10,000. All of these had net worths of more than \$5,000. Thus this subgroup would not be severely limited in making adjustments by lack of capital.

Two-fifths of the operators in the subgroup indicated that their farms were too small. One-third of the operators said that it would be possible to expand farm size in their present locations by renting or buying additional land.

Only about a fourth said they could think of any changes they might make to increase income. These changes included increasing farm size, changing enterprises, and getting a larger cotton allotment.

Three-fifths of these operators had made use of credit the preceeding year. Two-thirds of those who borrowed used a lending agency. Only two of the 15 thought they could use more credit.

### **Farm Families Operating Large Farms**

Group III farms were considered to be large enough to attain a \$2,000 farm income if they had more than 100 acres of open land or 50 to 100 acres of cropland, or both. Of the Group III families on farms of this size, 70 percent of the nonowner families and 44 percent of the owner families had farm incomes exceeding \$2,000. Average incomes of nonowner and owner families in this subgroup are shown in Table 19.

**Nonowner Families**

The 10 nonowner families who operated large farms accounted for slightly less than 2 percent of all rural families in the sample. They operated almost 6 percent of the farm land operated by families in the sample.

**Land Use:** These farms had an average of about 175 acres of open land, about three-fifths of which was in cash crops (Table 20). Unlike most of the small- and medium-sized farms, only one was a cotton farm. The value of gross product per acre of open land was \$79. Net returns per acre of open land were somewhat lower than for other farms in Group III. About one-sixth of the open land was considered to be unutilized.

**Labor Use:** One male head cared for an irrigation well and canals. There was no other nonfarm employment by members of these families.

The average amount of family labor used by all families in the subgroup was 2,585 hours (Table 21). In addition to the family heads and wives, three families had other able-bodied members over 14 years of age. About 1,000 more hours of family labor was used in farming by these families than by those without such family members.

**Capital:** The average net worth of the families was \$5,750. The estimated average value of farm assets used was about \$50,000, almost \$8,000 of which was in livestock and machinery.

**Adjustment Potential:** Half of these operators were under 45 years of age; three were under 45 and had more than eight years of schooling. None of the operators indicated a strong likelihood of leaving farming. None was in the age bracket approaching retirement. Six had entered farming since 1945, and four since 1950.

Only three of the 10 families had farm incomes of less than \$2,000. Two of the three had less than \$2,000 net worth. All three of the operators had less than 4 years of schooling. Two of the three had low incomes primarily because they were paying excessive rents. The third family, though on a large farm, had a small farming operation, with low yields.

Six of these families had net worths of \$5,000 to \$10,000, with most of this in livestock and machinery. Only three had net worths of less than \$2,000. Nine had borrowed money for farm operations during the preceding year. The average amount borrowed was \$3,400. Half said they needed to borrow more but either could not get more or were afraid to borrow more.

Four of the group thought their farms were too small.

### **Owner Families**

The 16 owner families operating large farms made up slightly less than 3 percent of the sample. They owned slightly less than 6 percent of the land and operated slightly more than 6 percent of the land operated by sample families.

**Land Use:** About one-tenth of the open land operated by these families was unused (Table 20). The gross value of product per acre of open land was relatively high, partly because of two dairy enterprises and one large poultry enterprise. Acreage in cash crops made up less than 40 percent of the total open land operated. Average farm income and farm earnings per acre of open land were considerably less than for the families owning farms in the two smaller size categories.

**Labor Use:** One male head worked for a few days during the year as a carpenter. One wife worked for about two months as a bookkeeper at a cotton gin.

The 16 families averaged 1,200 hours of family labor used in farming, which was only about half the amount used by comparable nonowner families or by either owner or nonowner families on the intermediate size farms. The family labor on these farms was clearly underutilized.

There were family members over 14, other than family heads and wives, on almost half the farms. The average amount of farm family labor used on these farms was about 1,900 hours, or about 1,200 hours more than was used on farms without such family members.

**Capital:** The average net worth of these families was almost \$26,000. The estimated average value of farm assets used was about \$42,000, of which \$8,300 was in livestock and machinery.

**Adjustment Potential:** It seems unlikely that more than 5 to 10 percent of these family heads will leave farming for nonfarm employment. Six of the operators were under 45 years of age; all of these had more than 4 years of school and half had completed more than 8 years. Four of the operators were approaching retirement age.

Of the 16 operators in the subgroup, four entered farming since 1945, and two had entered since 1950.

Despite the size of these farms, slightly less than half earned as much as \$2,000 farm income. The reason for low incomes on most of these farms was that the effective farm size was not much larger than for some of the smaller farms. That is, farming operations were limited to a few acres of allotment crops and the remaining land was idle or underutilized. Low yields and excessive costs for hired labor were contributing factors on a few farms.

Farm income could be increased on most of these farms. Land is not an extremely limiting factor. Seventy percent of the families had net worths of more than \$10,000. Only one-eighth had net worths of less than \$5,000. On most farms, borrowing capacity had been translated, at least to some extent, into working assets. Only one crop farm did not have a tractor and allied machinery. The level of education was not extremely low, compared with that of other groups.

## **Summary of Adjustment Potential of Families on Medium-Size and Large Farms**

### **Existing Families**

It appears likely that no more than 10 percent of the operators of medium-size and large farms are likely to leave farming for nonfarm employment. About 20 percent are likely to leave full-time farming for retirement by 1965. About 25 percent had entered farming since 1945, a rate of entry that, if continued, would largely offset losses to retirement and nonfarm employment.

About three-fourths of the nonowner families on these farms could

be considered low-income farm families, subject to the same limitations with respect to farming adjustments as the Group III families on small farms, except that they controlled a larger amount of land. About three-fifths of the owner families were in the same category, except that in addition to controlling more land they had a stronger capital position and a slightly higher educational level. In general, then, the operators of the medium-sized and large farms have enough physical resources to make some increase in farm income. Major limitations are presumed to be lack of production alternatives, motivation, and knowledge concerning production choices, enterprise combinations and farm practices.

The performance of these families reinforces the inference made regarding families on the small farms that increasing the size of their farms will not, even for families with a fairly strong capital position, insure farm incomes of as much as \$2,000.

### Other Family Members

On the 71 Group III farms large enough to approach or attain an income of \$2,000 there were 21 able-bodied males, other than family heads, not in school and not employed at \$2,000 or more (Table 22). This was one such person for each 3.4 households. From the standpoint of age, all were highly employable. From the standpoint of education, one-seventh had a very limited employment potential and one-seventh were highly employable. The remaining five-sevenths had only a fair nonfarm employment potential.

In addition to wives of family heads or children in school, there

**TABLE 22.—Characteristics of Family Members Over 14 Years of Age, Other than Head or Wife, Group III Families Operating Farms Large Enough to Approach or Attain \$2,000 Farm Income**

Item	Males		Females	
	White	Negro	White	Negro
Under 30 years of age:				
Employed at \$2,000 or more	1	..	..	..
Employed at less than \$2,000 <sup>1</sup>	1	..	..	2
In school	10	3	12	6
Not in school:				
Under 5 years schooling	1	..	..	5
5-8 years schooling	8	6	..	6
9 or more years schooling	2	1	1	3
30-44 years of age:				
Not employed				
Under 5 years schooling	..	2	..	1
45-59 years of age:				
Not employed				
Under 5 years schooling	..	..	..	1
60 years or older or disabled	1	2	3	2
Total	24	14	16	26

<sup>1</sup>Full-time.



were 19 able-bodied unemployed females on these farms, or one for each 3.7 households. More than a third of these had a very limited employment potential because of age, education, or both. A fifth had no major age or educational impediment. The rest were highly employable from the standpoint of age, but their employment capability was only fair in terms of education.

### Family Members Who Had Left Home

Of the family members in these two subgroups who had left home since 1945, about two-fifths had completed 9 or more years of school (Table 23). Only one-tenth, all Negroes, had completed less than 5 years of school. More than half of the males who had left were in the laborer or farm occupational groups; almost nine-tenths of these had completed less than 9 years of school. Less than one-eighth of the females were employed.

More than half of the persons who had left home had remained in the area. More than a fourth of those who left the area had moved to Texas. Lake Charles was the favorite point for migration within Louisiana.

**TABLE 23.—Distribution of Family Members Who Had Left Home Since 1945 With Respect to Occupation and Location, Group III Families Operating Farms Large Enough to Approach or Earn \$2,000 Farm Income**

Item	Males			Females		
	Under 5 years school	5-8 years school	9 or more years school	Under 5 years school	5-8 years school	9 or more years school
Occupation						
Professional	..	1	..	..	..	..
Clerical	..	..	..	..	..	3
Sales	..	..	1	..	..	..
Craftsman	..	4	..	..	..	..
Operative	..	2	2	..	..	..
Laborer, nonfarm	3	8	1	..	..	..
Farmer	2	1	1	..	..	..
Military service	..	..	2	..	..	..
Unknown	..	..	1	..	..	..
Wife	..	..	..	1	10	12
Total	5	16	8	1	10	15
Location						
Local area	2	8	4	1	8	7
New Orleans	..	..	..	..	..	3
Baton Rouge	..	1	..	..	..	..
Lake Charles	..	2	2	..	..	3
Elsewhere in Louisiana	1	2	..	..	1	..
Texas	2	3	..	..	1	1
Other state	..	..	..	..	..	1
Military service	..	..	2	..	..	..
Total	5	16	8	1	10	15

## Farm Laborer Families

Twenty-seven families in which the major source of income to the head was from farm wage work (Group IV families) made up almost 5 percent of the sample.

The heads of slightly more than one-fifth of these families were farm operators as well as farm laborers. They operated an average of about seven acres of land, of which about four acres were in cash crops. In general, these operators rented a few acres of land from the farmer for whom they regularly did farm work.

**Labor Use:** The labor of male heads in this group was about 90 percent employed at farm wage work at an average wage of slightly less than \$4.00 per day (Table 24).

The available labor time of wives and female heads was about 9 percent employed at farm wage work. One wife worked part-time as a housemaid.

These families had incomes comparable to those of small farm families in which the operator did not work off the farm. Per capita family earnings were only slightly more than \$300 (Table 25).

**TABLE 24.—Labor Availability and Use, Rural Farm Laborer Families**

Item	Labor availability and use
Number of families	27
	..... Average hours .....
Male Heads:	
Available	1,926
Nonfarm work	2
Farm wage work	1,706
Wives and female heads:	
Available	1,849
Nonfarm work	30
Farm wage work	160
Other males over 14:	
Available	963
Nonfarm work	127
Farm wage work	526
Other females over 14:	
Available	578
Nonfarm work	15
Farm wage work	56
Children 10-13:	
Available	154
Hours remaining:	
Male heads	218
Wives and female heads	1,659
Other males over 14	310
Other females over 14	507
Children 10-13	154
Total hours used for farm work <sup>1</sup>	162

<sup>1</sup>Own farm.

TABLE 25.—Income of Rural Farm Laborer Families

Income source		Income
Number of families		27
	Dollars per family	
Work of male heads		848
Work of wives and female heads		72
Transfer payments		74
Farm income		67
Value of farm produced food		131
Total		1,192
Work of other family members		343
Total family earnings		1,535
	Dollars per capita	
Per capita family earnings		316

### Adjustment Potential

Three-fifths of the household heads in Group IV were males under 45 years of age, but only 7 percent were under 45 and had completed more than 4 years of school. Therefore, nonfarm employment opportunities for most household heads in the group were limited. The two female household heads in the group were over 50 years of age and had less than 4 years of school. The educational level of wives tended to be slightly higher than that of male heads, but was still low.

Three-fourths of the male heads under 45 indicated that they would like to find nonfarm employment. The average wage at which they said they would accept nonfarm employment was slightly under \$2,500 per year. One fifth of those over 45 indicated an interest in nonfarm employment, at the same wage level as for the younger group. About one-fifth of the male heads thought that they could find nonfarm employment. The average wage that they thought they could obtain was slightly less than \$2,200 per year.

Considering age, education, and general awareness of nonfarm opportunities it is estimated that not more than one-fourth of the family heads in this group will ever move into nonfarm employment. One male head had accepted nonfarm employment as a construction laborer between the end of 1956 and mid-1957.

It is likely that 30 percent of the group will move into the retired, transfer-payment category by 1965.

Most of the families in this group probably will eventually move into farming, but their potential for success in farming is low. No family in the group had a net worth of \$1,000; average net worth was \$40. As was indicated earlier, family heads had very little education. Those who move into full-time farming from this group are likely to do so at the small renter or share cropper level.

**Other Family Members:** In addition to family heads and wives of

TABLE 26.—Family Members Over 14 Years of Age, Other than Head or Wife,  
Rural Farm Laborer Families<sup>1</sup>

Item	Male	Female
	..... Number .....	
Under 30 years of age:		
In school	5	5
Not employed <sup>2</sup> , not in school		
Under 5 years schooling	5	1
5-8 years schooling	3	3
9 or more years schooling	2	2
60 years or older or disabled	3 <sup>3</sup>	..
Total	18	11

<sup>1</sup>All Negro except one.

<sup>2</sup>Full-time or at \$2,000 or more.

<sup>3</sup>Includes one white male.

heads, there were in these 27 families 10 able-bodied males and 6 females not in school and not employed at nonfarm work. The nonfarm employment potential of most of the males was low. Five of them had less than 5 years of schooling, and only two had 9 or more years.

Five of the six females had completed 5 years of school or more.

### Family Members Who Had Left Home

Only one male and four females had left these families in the last decade. The male, who had completed 9 years of school, was in military service. Two of the females were housewives and two were farm wage workers.

### Miscellaneous Families

Group V consists of 22 families that did not fit any of the other four categories, accounting for almost 4 percent of all of the families in the sample. The group contains seven families whose heads had nonfarm work but at a low rate of pay, three families whose heads were full-time students, four families whose heads were unemployed for health or other reasons in 1956 but had employment in 1957, four families whose heads had full-time employment in 1956 but were largely unemployed in 1957 for health or other reasons, and four families whose heads were farming at the time of the survey but had been in military service or employed at low paying nonfarm jobs in 1956.

The heads of four of these families were nearing retirement under existing welfare programs within a relatively short time. Six of the heads had age, education, or health impediments to nonfarm employment. The rest, slightly more than half of the group, had no major nonfarm employment limitations.

All of the operators in this group who had entered farming in 1957 had done so as renters of small farms. None of them had any capital assets. The only one of the four who had less than 5 years of schooling



had been a service station attendant. All were under 30 years of age. It is not likely that any of these operators will remain in farming.

Male heads in Group V who were employed in 1956 worked as store clerks, loggers, construction laborers, or laborers at other jobs.

Two female family heads had nonfarm employment, one as a store clerk and one as a housemaid.

## Summary

This report is summarized in three sections, covering (1) family members who had left home since 1945; (2) family members over 14 years of age, other than heads or wives, who were still at home; and (3) existing family units. This reverses the order followed in the body of the report for each group. This is done to facilitate discussion of possible future adjustment prospects, particularly for those groups primarily dependent on farming.

### Family Members Who Had Left Home

A recapitulation of the employment activity and location of family members who had left the homes in the sample since 1945 is presented in Table 27.

Fifty-two percent of those who had left home during the 10 years preceding the study were still in the area. The proportion leaving the area was higher for Negroes than for whites, higher for males than for females, and higher for those at the higher educational levels than for those with less schooling. Although Negroes with 9 or more years of schooling were relatively few in number, the proportion who left the area was especially high.

More than a third of the persons who had left the local area had left Louisiana, almost a fourth going to Texas. The proportion of those leaving the area who had moved to Texas was almost twice as large for Negroes as for whites. Within Louisiana, the favorite point for migration was New Orleans, followed by Lake Charles and Baton Rouge.

About 85 percent of the females who had left home since 1945 were primarily housewives. White females with 9 or more years of schooling accounted for two-thirds of the employed females. Twelve percent of the males who had completed 9 or more years of school, 36 percent of those who had completed 5 to 8 years of school, and 46 percent of those who had completed less than 5 years of school were nonfarm laborers.

Slightly more than one-eighth of all males in the group were farmers or farm laborers. This was 33 percent of those who had completed less than 5 years of school, 15 percent of those who had completed 5 to 8 years of school, and 5 percent of those who had completed 9 or more years of school. The proportion of Negroes who had become farmers or farm laborers was about four times as great as the proportion of whites.

TABLE 27.—Distribution of Rural Family Members Who Had Left Home Since 1945, by Occupation and Location, All Sample Families

Item	Males						Females				
	White			Negro			White		Negro		
	Under 5 years school	5-8 years school	9 or more years school	Under 5 years school	5-8 years school	9 or more years school	5-8 years school	9 or more years school	Under 5 years school	5-8 years school	9 or more years school
	Number										
Occupation											
Professional	..	..	10	..	1	..	..	5	..	..	1
Proprietor	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Clerical	..	..	7	..	2	..	..	9	..	..	..
Sales	..	2	5	..	1	..	1	2	..	..	..
Craftsman	1	9	4	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..
Operative	..	6	14	1	2	2	..	..	..	1	..
Service work	..	2	1	1	1	4	1	3	2	..	1
Laborer, nonfarm	1	12	4	10	14	6	..	..	..	..	..
Farm laborer	..	..	1	1	2	..	..	..	1	1	..
Farmer	1	3	1	6	6	2	..	..	..	..	..
Student	..	1	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Military service	1	..	11	..	3	1	..	..	..	..	..
Unknown or unemployed	..	1	2	1	2	..	..	1	..	..	..
Wife	..	..	..	..	..	..	27	77	7	40	11
Total	4	36	65	20	37	16	29	97	10	42	14
Location											
Local area	2	22	31	10	10	2	22	54	9	26	3
New Orleans	..	3	5	..	6	2	1	10	1	1	3
Baton Rouge	1	4	1	..	1	1	2	8	..	..	2
Lake Charles	..	2	4	3	..	4	1	5	..	3	1
Alexandria	..	..	1	..	..	2	1	3	..	..	1
Elsewhere in Louisiana	..	2	3	1	3	..	..	4	..	2	1
Texas	..	2	5	4	10	3	2	8	..	7	1
Other state	..	1	4	2	3	1	..	5	..	3	2
Military service or unknown	1	..	11	..	4	1	..	..	..	..	..
Total	4	36	65	20	37	16	29	97	10	42	14

## Family Members Still at Home

A summary of family members over 14 years of age still at home, other than the heads and wives, is presented by age, education, race, and sex in Table 28. There were 484 such persons among the sample families, or one per 1.2 families.

One able-bodied male for each 4.7 families was not in school and not employed at \$2,000 or more. One female for each 6.3 families was in this category. The proportion of persons in this category was more than twice as large for Negroes as for whites.

Throughout this report, it has been assumed that the nonfarm employment potential of persons with less than 5 years of schooling is severely limited. It is assumed that those with 9 or more years have no great nonfarm employment limitation from an educational standpoint. Those with 5 to 8 years of schooling are considered to be moderately handicapped, as they would have some difficulty in finding nonfarm employment that offered much opportunity without additional training. Persons over 45 years of age also are considered to be severely handicapped in obtaining nonfarm employment; those in the 30 to 44-year age group are considered to be moderately limited in this respect.

**TABLE 28.—Summary of Family Members Over 14 Years of Age, Other than Head or Wife, by Sex, Race, Age, and Education, All Sample Families**

Item	Males		Females	
	White	Negro	White	Negro
Under 30 years of age:				
Employed at \$2,000 or more	9	1	3	1
Employed at less than \$2,000 <sup>1</sup>	2	3	2	3
In school	65	31	56	58
Not in school				
Under 5 years schooling	6	12	1	10
5-8 years schooling	22	32	4	25
9 or more years schooling	18	11	14	16
30-44 years of age:				
Employed at \$2,000 or more	3	..	2	..
Employed at less than \$2,000 <sup>1</sup>	1	..	1	..
Not employed <sup>2</sup>				
Under 5 years schooling	1	6	1	3
5-8 years schooling	2	..	..	..
9 or more years schooling	1	..	..	..
45-59 years of age:				
Employed at \$2,000 or more	2	..	..	..
Not employed <sup>2</sup>				
Under 5 years schooling	1	2	1	4
5-8 years schooling	2	..	5	..
9 or more years schooling	1	..	1	..
60 years or older or disabled:	8	7	16	8
Total	144	105	107	128

<sup>1</sup>Full-time.

<sup>2</sup>Full-time or at \$2,000 or more.

On the basis of these assumptions, slightly more than one-eighth of the white males in the sample were severely limited in potential for finding nonfarm employment, about one-fifth were moderately limited, and almost two-thirds had no age or educational handicap or already had employment at \$2,000 or more.

Of the Negro males approximately one-third were in each of the nonfarm employment potential groups.

Apparently most females, both Negro and white, who leave home do so through marriage. With respect to employment potential, a much smaller proportion of the females have educational limitations than males. The proportion of females with an age limitation is slightly higher than for males, especially among the white females.

Based on the proportions of those males who had left home during the preceding 10 years who had become farmers and farm laborers, it can be expected that a total of 25 to 30, or 10 to 12 percent, of the males still at home will be farmers or farm laborers by 1965. This assumes, of course, that a high level of external economic activity and growth will be maintained. Considering the proportion of these persons who have some employment limitation, and the ease with which farming can be entered at this level, a decline in economic activity and growth easily could cause this number to be increased substantially.

### Existing Families

For purposes of this report, sample families were divided into five major groups, with each further subdivided according to various specified characteristics of families and farms. Bases for family groupings and definitions of groups were given in the introduction and in the individual sections devoted to each group. The distribution of the sample families among the five groups is shown in Table 29.

For summary purposes, farm laborer families are considered together with farm operator families primarily dependent on farming. Income and resources controlled by farm laborer families are highly similar to those of a large segment of the farm operator families. The small group of miscellaneous nonfarm families is not discussed in the summary.

TABLE 29.—Groupings of Rural Families, Central Louisiana Mixed Farming Area<sup>1</sup>

Family group	Percent of rural families in group
1. Families obviously without a major income problem	23
2. Families with obviously limited adjustment potential	25
3. Families primarily dependent on farming	43
4. Farm laborer families	5
5. Miscellaneous nonfarm families	4
Total	100

<sup>1</sup>For definitions see pp. 6-7.



**Families Obviously Without A Major Income Problem:** Families without a major income problem because of nonfarm employment or property ownership accounted for almost one-fourth of the rural families in the sample. They controlled almost three-fourths of the land resources. A small percentage of these families owned a large percentage of the land owned by the group.

In general, these families do not make effective use of the agricultural resources they control. Few of the farm families earned much from farming above the value of farm-produced food consumed by the family. At least a fourth of these families could increase income significantly through more efficient use of farm resources.

**Families With Obviously Limited Adjustment Potential:** Families classified as having little or no adjustment potential accounted for about one-fourth of all rural families. They controlled about 12 percent of the land resources. This group received most of its return from farm resources in the form of farm privileges.

Family heads in the group have practically no nonfarm employment potential and are not likely to expand or intensify farming operations. It is likely, however, that many farm families in the group could increase farm incomes by a few hundred dollars per farm by operating sound livestock enterprises.

**Families Primarily Dependent On Farming, Including Farm Laborer Families:** Families primarily dependent on farming accounted for almost half of the sample families. Only 10 percent of these families had farm incomes of \$2,000 or more.

These families utilized their land at a considerably higher level of intensity than families in the two groups previously considered. However, a considerable amount of their land was idle or underutilized, particularly on the larger farms. There was considerable underutilization of family labor, especially on the smaller farms.

Of the families with less than \$2,000 farm income, almost three-fifths had severe farm size and capital limitations to increasing farm income. They operated less than 50 acres of land or less than 30 acres of cropland and had net worths of less than \$2,000. Most had net worths of less than \$1,000 and many had negative net worths. Another 10 percent of those with low farm incomes operated slightly larger farms but had severe capital limitations. Because of land and capital resource limitations alone, the prospects of these families for increasing farm income are poor.

Slightly more than one-fourth of the families with low farm incomes had somewhat stronger capital positions but operated small acreages. About equal proportions of these families had net worths of \$2,000 to \$4,999, \$5,000 to \$9,999, and \$10,000 or more. Many of these were in a position to expand farming operations either by acquiring more land in place or relocating on a larger farm.

Only slightly more than 3 percent of the families with farm incomes of less than \$2,000 operated farms large enough (over 50 acres of cropland or 100 acres of total open land) to sustain a \$2,000 farm income and had a net worth of \$5,000 or more.

Apart from limitations imposed by lack of land and capital resources most of these families seemed unaware that their lot could be improved and lacked the motivation to seek improvement. The general attitude seemed to be one of acceptance or resignation. This may have been related to levels of age and education. Almost half the heads of families were over 45 years of age. More than three-fifths had completed less than 5 years of schooling; only 8 percent had completed 9 or more years.

As these age and education data indicate, nonfarm employment prospects were poor for most of these family heads. Only one-fourth of the family heads were males under 45 years of age with 5 or more years of school. Only about 6 percent were males under 45 with 9 or more years of school.

Some of these male heads were moving into nonfarm employment. Slightly more than 2 percent of the farm and farm laborer family heads had accepted full-time nonfarm employment at the end of 1956 and remained in the area, either as part-time farmers or as rural residents. Others undoubtedly left the area and were not included in the sample.

It seems possible that up to about 20 percent of the farm family heads, most of them from the small, low-income farms, eventually will move into nonfarm employment.

It also is likely that by 1965 about one-fifth of the farm families will leave full-time farming for retirement or part-time farming, with most of the nonowner families becoming eligible for coverage under the state welfare program and most of the owners renting out their cropland.

Thus, there is a possibility of up to 40 percent of these families leaving the farm and farm laborer groups within the next few years. Given the assumptions of the preceding section with respect to entries of comparable new families into farming, this will represent a net loss to this group of 25 to 30 percent of the families in this category. As was stated, however, the extent to which this reduction is realized will depend primarily upon external economic conditions. In view of the relative instability of the employment to which some of these persons move, the ease of entering farming at the small renter level, and the large number of young persons still at home, an economic setback could result in a quick reversal of the trend toward fewer such families.

Even with the most optimistic estimate of the reduction in numbers of such families, it is not likely that they will drop below 70 percent of present numbers for some years to come. It is not likely that most of those who remain primarily dependent on farming will make much improvement in their income position of their own volition.

## Conclusions

There is no quick or simple solution to the problem of underemployment and low incomes among rural people in this area. The situation is not unique with this area or with agriculture. There are many instances of the problem having occurred in other industries—for example, mining and lumbering. It is largely a result of technological innovation. The problem occurs in industry as large quantities of physical resources, highly specific to the industry, are no longer required to maintain the necessary output. These resources usually are highly specific to the industry. Especially for labor resources there may be qualitative, physical, social, or psychological restrictions on movement into other activity. The problem usually is solved only through time as older persons die or retire and as fewer young people enter the industry. In the case of actual unemployment, workers are forced, after a time, to seek other employment for which they may not be well suited and which may yield a low income.

The problem of underemployment and low incomes, however, is more serious in agriculture than it has been in other industries, primarily because of the large number of people involved. There are other complicating factors also. The situation in agriculture is more likely to result in underemployment than in actual unemployment. A family usually can live at a subsistence level on a small, low-production farm. Because of this, the family heads may be less inclined to seek other employment than if they actually were unemployed. The possibility of existence, together with the ease of starting farming operations on a small farm, also causes a flow of resources into agriculture during times of stress in other segments of the economy. A large part of the present problem undoubtedly was caused by the reduced out-migration of farm people and the return of some people to the farm during the last depression. Many of these people may have expected to enter farming only as a temporary measure, but the passage of only a little time was required for their labor resources to become specific to farming.

Therefore, while the problem might be solved through time, as fewer young people enter farming and as older people retire, this solution would require a very long period. The process needs to be speeded up, if possible, for at least three reasons. First, the present situation is one of poverty and human need by current standards. Second, present conditions result in a great waste of human resources, not only in terms of underutilization of existing resources, but also in terms of reduced opportunity for the development of the full potential of young people in these circumstances. Third, the present situation acts as a deterrent to adjustments that are needed to make agriculture more efficient. The full benefits of technological innovation and improvements in production techniques cannot be realized as long as a large segment of agriculture is organized along the lines that existed for a premechanized and subsistence agriculture.



Most students of the problem are agreed that (1) more rural people need to be absorbed into nonfarm employment; and (2) the agricultural resources that are released by those moving into nonfarm employment need to be recombined into larger, more efficient units. Most discussion has been concerned with the first part of the solution and has evolved around either moving more industry into rural areas or accelerating the movement of people out of these areas. Often the assumption that the second part of the solution will automatically follow seems to be implied.

Workers in pilot Rural Development counties generally have found that bringing in new industry is much easier in concept than in fact. Factory sites are not chosen for the purpose of solving local problems or national problems. Often the very conditions underlying the problems of underdeveloped areas act as a deterrent to the introduction of new industry.

The data from this study indicate that age and educational limitations are serious impediments to nonfarm employment of a majority of heads of existing families on low-income farms in the five-parish area. The educational obstacle also exists for some young people in these families. It seems likely that a large amount of underemployment and many low-income families would exist in the area even if there were perfect knowledge of employment opportunities outside the area or if there were a large expansion of industrial activity within the area. Actually, this area cannot be considered highly remote, or completely lacking in knowledge of outside activities. A large part of the area is within 75 miles of either Baton Rouge or Lake Charles, cities which have experienced large industrial growth in recent years. New Orleans is less than 200 miles from the most distant point in the area.

This is not to imply that steps could not or should not be taken to increase the movement of rural people from the area into nonfarm employment. As a minimum, existing educational laws should be more rigidly enforced so that children will not be permitted to reach adulthood only to find that they have few employment opportunities and are able to exercise little choice in occupation. The possibilities for trade school expansion and more student recruitment of youth and young adults in line with existing and prospective employment opportunities could well be investigated. Information on employment opportunities might be more effectively collected and disseminated. The majority of rural youth and some adults have been moving into nonfarm employment. This process could well be accelerated.

It is clear, however, that even if the best possible job were done along these lines, a large part of the problem would remain. Many of these people are virtually unemployable, and others probably should not be encouraged to seek nonfarm employment. It is not certain that all of them would be better off in nonfarm jobs at the level of pay they could command than in their present circumstances. For this large num-



ber of existing families, major improvements in income levels probably can be obtained only in farming or through transfer-payment programs.

An attempt to raise these low-income farm families to a level of output and efficiency that would permit acceptable levels of income from farming would require a program of very large proportions. Such a program could be developed and made to succeed for a given area. The existing level of knowledge with respect to technology and management is such that the level of output and efficiency could be raised considerably in any given area. Such a program probably could not be developed or made to succeed with respect to a large number of areas or the overall problem. It is not possible to increase the farm incomes of these families significantly without increasing output. Yet there are few major agricultural products that have not been in oversupply in recent years.

What sort of program would be required in order for this area or similar areas to increase the level of farm incomes? The first requirement would be an intensive educational program. It would be necessary to develop a new spirit among rural people. Such an educational program would need to include information on ways and means, but above all it would have to be directed toward motivation. To a large extent, rural families in low-income categories have never known any other way of life. Most of their neighbors are in similar circumstances. While they undoubtedly are aware that a better life exists they apparently do not see themselves as a part of it. Most habits are hard to break. A way of life is habit to a certain extent and also is hard to break.

Motivation alone, of course, would not solve the problem. The greatest physical need of these families is for larger farming operations. If rural families were properly motivated as to the need for increasing incomes and were made to understand the possibilities of increasing farm income through increasing farm size, many of them undoubtedly could and would expand farming operations. However, a conscious and positive program to increase farm size also would be needed. Recombining of farms does not always occur automatically as families retire or move out of farming. There is a considerable amount of idle and underutilized farm land already in the area. Rural development committees, and existing agencies thoroughly familiar with the area and with local conditions, might be able to accelerate farm combinations and increase land utilization through a program including publicity and personal contact.

There is some indication that existing tenure institutions in this area may be a deterrent to expanding farm size. There was a feeling by many families that additional land could not be operated profitably at prevailing rental rates. This was substantiated to some extent by the lack of success of renter families on farms of medium size. This point needs further investigation.

Coexisting with the need for larger farms is a need for additional capital. Few low-income farm families have a capital position strong enough to finance much farm expansion or improvement. The educa-

tional program mentioned earlier would need to include possibilities and motivation for increasing income through use of credit, both for those who do and those who do not have a strong capital position. For those who have few assets, new sources of credit need to be developed. Expansion of Farmers Home Administration operations would seem to offer one promising approach to this problem. However, private lending agencies might well find that some of these families could constitute a profitable outlet for loanable funds, particularly with increased supervision and technical assistance. This possibility needs investigation by private and public lending agencies as well as public research agencies.

A final requirement for increasing farm incomes of low-income farm families is a vast increase in the amount of technical advice and assistance furnished to these families. Individual case histories from the Farm and Home Development Program and experience of the Farmers Home Administration have indicated that remarkable increases in farm income can be obtained through close assistance in improving farm practices and in selecting and combining enterprises. In general, low-income farm families have made little use of the services of the Agricultural Extension Service and the various technical agencies. Many of these families need close personal assistance to a much greater degree than the more successful commercial farm families. The educational level of farm operators in these families is extremely low, technical information reaches them slowly, and there is a greater lack of initiative and imagination than among the more successful farm operators. They need assistance in developing and producing secondary farm enterprises, in basic farm planning which includes selection and combination of enterprises to most effectively utilize available resources, in selection of farm practices to increase output or reduce cost, or both. In short, they need advice and assistance in every phase of modern farming. A part of the educational program would need to be devoted to creating a desire for this kind of assistance. Present resources devoted to this type of activity would not be adequate to provide assistance to the large numbers of farm families involved.

An area willing to undertake a comprehensive program along the broad outlines indicated above undoubtedly could increase the level of rural incomes significantly. As noted earlier, however, if the basic problems in all low-income rural areas are similar to those in this area, the prospects are poor for major short-run improvements with respect to the overall problem. Agricultural income of low-income farm families cannot be increased without encountering the problem of agricultural surpluses. The most that can be accomplished under these circumstances—and this would require a positive program in itself—is an acceleration of the movement out of agriculture by rural youth and young adults with an acceptance of the fact that a great deal of rural poverty will exist for years to come.

Thus the problem of low-income farm families, complex as it may

appear in itself, must be considered as finely interwoven with other agricultural problems. The portion of the problem that requires an agricultural remedy—and this portion appears to be large—can be solved only as solutions are found to other questions confronting agriculture. These questions revolve primarily around surpluses, price programs, and acreage allotments.

## Appendix

**APPENDIX TABLE 1.—Crop and Livestock Labor Requirements Used to Compute the Amount of Family Labor Used in Farming**

Item	Unit	Hours Required
Cotton, pre-harvest, tractor power	Acre	36
Cotton, pre-harvest, workstock	Acre	50
Cotton, harvest, hand	Bale	76
Sweetpotatoes, pre-harvest, tractor power	Acre	45
Sweetpotatoes, pre-harvest, workstock	Acre	60
Sweetpotatoes, harvest, hand	Bushel	.33
Corn, pre-harvest, tractor power	Acre	10
Corn, pre-harvest, workstock	Acre	26
Corn, harvest, hand	Bushel	.31
Rice, tractor power	Acre	16
Sugarcane, tractor power	Acre	100
Hay	Acre	15
Soybeans, tractor power	Acre	10
Miscellaneous truck crops	Acre	100
Workstock	Head	90
Milk cows, home milk	Cow	130
Dairy cows, commercial herd	Cow	95
Beef cows	Cow	20
Hogs	Sow	80
Hens	Head	2
Other poultry	Head	1

**APPENDIX TABLE 2.—Distribution of Households With Respect to Specified Characteristics, Rural Families Obviously Without a Major Income Problem, All Sample Families**

Item	Major income source: property		Major income source: nonfarm work		Total	
	Owned 500 acres or more	Owned less than 500 acres	Farm families	Nonfarm families	Number	Percent
Number of families	6	16	50	62	134	
Race:						
White	6	16	46	57	125	93
Negro	..	..	4	5	9	7
Family type:						
Husband-wife	6	13	48	59	126	94
Female head, no spouse	..	3	..	2	5	4
Male head, no spouse	..	..	2	1	3	2
Age:						
Male heads						
Under 30	..	..	4	12	16	12
30-39	1	..	10	22	33	26
40-49	1	2	19	18	40	31
50-59	3	6	11	6	26	20
60-69	1	2	5	1	9	7
70 or over	..	3	1	1	5	4
Wives and female heads:						
Under 30	..	..	4	23	27	21
30-39	1	..	21	22	44	33
40-49	2	7	12	13	34	26
50-59	3	4	9	3	19	14
60-69	..	3	2	..	5	4
70 or more	..	2	..	..	2	2
Years schooling:						
Male heads						
Less than 5	1	7	10	14	32	25
5-8	3	4	23	27	57	44
9 or more	2	2	17	19	40	31

*Continued*



APPENDIX TABLE 2. (Continued)

## Years schooling: (continued)

## Female heads and wives

Less than 5

1 11 3 4 19 14

5-8

.. 5 25 26 56 43

9 or more

5 .. 20 31 56 43

## Family members over 14:

1

.. .. 1 .. 1 1

2

2 8 27 44 81 61

3

2 3 13 12 30 22

4 or more

2 5 9 6 22 16

## Real estate owned, acres:

None

.. .. 3 15 18 13

Less than 10

.. .. 4 39 43 35

10-49

.. 1 11 2 14 22

50-99

.. 4 12 1 17 13

100 or more

6 9 4 3 22 17

## Net worth

Less than \$1,000

.. .. .. 15 15 11

\$1,000-4,999

.. .. 10 19 29 22

\$5,000-9,999

.. 2 10 14 26 19

\$10,000-24,999

.. 2 15 7 24 18

\$25,000 or more

6 12 15 7 40 30

## Economic class of farm

Class 1

4 .. 1 .. 5 4

Class 2

1 .. 1 .. 2 2

Class 3

.. 2 1 .. 3 2

Class 4

1 2 1 .. 4 3

Class 5

.. 2 13 .. 15 11

Part-time

.. 6 11 .. 17 13

Residential

.. 4 22 .. 26 19

Nonfarm

.. .. .. 62 62 46

APPENDIX TABLE 3.—Distribution of Households With Respect to Specified Characteristics, Rural Families With Obviously Limited Adjustment Potential, All Sample Families

Item	Major income source: transfer payments		Major income source: farm property	Total	
	Nonfarm families	Farm families		Number	Percent
Number of families	75	41	29	145	..
Race:					
White	38	27	27	92	63
Negro	37	14	2	53	37
Family type:					
Husband-wife	38	25	22	85	59
Female head, no spouse	33	10	7	50	34
Male head, no spouse	4	6	..	10	7
Age:					
Male heads					
30-39	1	..	..	1	1
40-49	2	..	2	4	4
50-59	2	3	6	11	12
60-69	16	17	8	41	43
70 or over	21	11	6	38	40
Wives and female heads:					
Under 40	3	2	..	5	4
40-49	12	5	5	22	16
50-59	18	10	8	36	27
60-69	22	13	10	45	33
70 or over	16	5	6	27	20
Years schooling:					
Male heads					
Less than 5	30	26	13	69	73
5-8	11	3	7	21	22
9 or more	1	2	2	5	5

Continued

APPENDIX TABLE 3. (Continued)

## Years schooling: (continued)

## Wives and female heads

Less than 5	47	26	18	91	67
5-8	23	6	7	36	27
9 or more	1	3	4	8	6

## Family members over 14:

1	21	5	2	28	19
2	39	18	13	70	48
3	9	10	8	27	19
4 or more	6	8	6	20	14

## Real estate owned, acres:

None	38	7	..	45	31
Less than 10	26	4	..	30	21
10-49	9	24	11	44	30
50-99	..	5	15	20	14
100 or more	2	1	3	6	4

## Net worth:

Less than \$1,000	47	7	..	54	37
\$1,000-4,999	15	12	..	27	19
\$5,000-9,999	6	9	4	19	13
\$10,000-24,999	6	12	15	33	23
\$25,000 or more	1	1	10	12	8

## Economic class of farm:

Class 4	..	2	1	3	2
Class 5	..	5	7	12	8
Class 6	..	3	..	3	2
Part-time	..	6	5	11	8
Residential	..	25	13	38	26
Nonfarm	75	..	3	78	54

APPENDIX TABLE 4.—Distribution of Households With Respect to Specified Characteristics, Group III Families Operating Farms too Small to Earn \$2,000 Farm Income

Item	Less than \$250 non-farm employment income to family head		\$250 or more nonfarm employment income to family head		Total	
	Nonowners	Owners	Nonowners	Owners	Number	Percent
Number of families	101	38	17	21	177	
Race:						
White	42	22	12	15	91	51
Negro	59	16	5	6	86	49
Family type:						
Husband-wife	97	34	17	21	169	96
Female head, no spouse		2	..	..	2	1
Male head, no spouse	1	2	..	..	6	3
Age:						
Male heads						
Under 30	18	1	8	1	28	16
30-39	25	5	6	10	46	26
40-49	26	12	3	5	46	26
50-59	25	14	..	4	43	25
60-69	7	4	..	1	12	7
Wives and female heads						
Under 30	24	3	8	7	42	25
30-39	26	8	7	6	47	27
40-49	23	9	2	5	39	23
50-59	23	14	..	2	39	23
60-69	1	2	..	1	4	2
Years schooling:						
Male heads						
Less than 5	78	22	6	6	112	64
5-8	20	13	6	11	50	29
9 or more	3	1	5	4	13	7

Continued



APPENDIX TABLE 4. (Continued)

## Years schooling: (Continued)

## Wives and female heads

Less than 5	58	14	5	3	80	47
5-8	34	17	4	13	68	40
9 or more	5	5	8	5	23	13

## Family members over 14:

1	..	2	..	..	2	1
2	51	15	12	13	91	51
3	27	6	3	4	40	23
4 or more	23	15	2	4	44	25

## Real estate owned, acres:

None	101	..	17	..	118	67
Less than 10	..	3	..	6	9	5
10-49	..	32	..	14	46	26
50-99	..	3	..	1	4	2

## Net worth:

Less than \$1,000	73	2	8	2	85	48
\$1,000-1,999	21	2	4	2	29	16
\$2,000-4,999	7	5	4	4	20	11
\$5,000-9,999	..	16	1	9	26	15
\$10,000 or more	..	13	..	4	17	10

## Economic class of farm:

Class 3	1	..	1	..	2	1
Class 4	25	9	5	4	43	24
Class 5	59	18	9	7	93	52
Class 6	15	8	2	1	26	15
Part-time	1	2	..	5	8	5
Residential	..	1	..	4	5	3

**APPENDIX TABLE 5.—Distribution of Households With Respect to Specified Characteristics, Group III Families Operating Farms Large Enough to Approach or Attain \$2,000 Farm Income**

Item	Farms large enough to approach \$2,000 farm income		Farms large enough to earn \$2,000 farm income		Total	
	Nonowners	Owners	Nonowners	Owners	Number	Percent
Number of families	30	15	10	16	71	..
Race:						
White	14	14	9	15	52	73
Negro	16	1	1	1	19	27
Family type:						
Husband-wife	30	15	9	15	69	97
Male head, no spouse	..	..	1	1	2	3
Age:						
Male heads						
Under 30	3	..	1	1	5	7
30-39	5	3	2	2	12	17
40-49	9	6	5	6	26	37
50-59	11	5	2	6	24	34
60-69	2	1	..	..	3	4
70 or more	..	..	..	1	1	1
Wives:						
Under 30	3	..	2	1	6	9
30-39	9	5	2	4	20	29
40-49	8	5	4	6	23	33
50-59	10	5	1	4	20	29
Years schooling:						
Male heads						
Less than 5	19	7	5	2	33	47
5-8	10	5	1	9	25	35
9 or more	1	3	4	5	13	18

*Continued*

APPENDIX TABLE 5. (Continued)

## Years schooling: (Continued)

## Wives:

Less than 5

5-8

9 or more

## Family members over 14:

1

2

3

4 or more

## Real estate owned, acres:

None

10-49

50-99

100 or more

## Net worth:

Less than \$1,000

\$1,000-1,999

\$2,000-4,999

\$5,000-9,999

\$10,000-24,999

\$25,000 or more

## Economic class of farm:

1

2

3

4

5

6

15

12

3

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7

10

13

30

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13

11

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17

10

18

21

13

3

13

20

44

17

3

**APPENDIX TABLE 6.—Distribution of Households With Respect to Specific Characteristics, Farm Laborer Families and Miscellaneous Rural Families**

Item	Farm laborer families	Miscellaneous families
Number of families	27	22
Race:		
White	1	18
Negro	26	4
Family type:		
Husband-wife	22	19
Female head, no spouse	2	2
Male head, no spouse	3	1
Age:		
Male heads		
Under 30	7	8
30-39	6	7
40-49	5	2
50-59	4	2
60-69	3	1
Wives and female heads		
Under 30	9	11
30-39	5	5
40-49	4	3
50-59	6	1
60-69	..	1
Years schooling:		
Male heads		
Less than 5	22	7
5-9	3	7
9 or more	..	6
Wives and female heads		
Less than 5	9	4
5-8	10	8
9 or more	5	9
Family members over 14:		
1	3	..
2	12	17
3	4	2
4 or more	8	3
Real state owned, acres:		
None	26	17
Less than 10	1	5
Net worth:		
Less than \$1,000	27	18
\$1,000-1,999	..	2
\$5,000-9,999	..	2
Economic class of farm:		
Class 5	1	..
Class 6	2	..
Part-time	2	..
Residential	1	..
Nonfarm	21	22



APPENDIX TABLE 7.—Percent of Sample Families Reporting Various Items Used to Reflect Level of Living, by Adjustment Potential Groups<sup>1</sup>

Item	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3		Group 4	Group 5
	No income problem	Limited adjustment potential	Primarily dependent on farming		Farm laborer families	Miscellaneous families
			Small farms	Medium-size & large farms		
Number of families	134	145	177	71	27	22
	Percent reporting item					
Electricity	100	95	95	97	81	95
Telephone	68	23	14	17	11	9
Refrigerator	100	87	82	92	52	86
Home freezer	61	34	36	65	15	14
Television	85	34	33	56	33	55
Radio	93	77	81	90	63	73
Piped house water	87	50	32	59	11	45
Inside bath	83	39	19	45	4	41
Water heater	71	31	14	32	7	32
Automatic washing machine	45	14	6	25	4	27
Electric or gas stove	99	77	63	62	44	82
Car or truck	88	36	69	89	41	64
Good dwelling <sup>2</sup>	67	25	24	32	..	27
Poor dwelling <sup>2</sup>	6	30	34	21	65	27

<sup>1</sup>As defined on pages 6-7.

<sup>2</sup>As evaluated by enumerator. The poor dwellings could be described as shacks. The good dwellings were of sound construction and in a good state of repair. The remaining percentage represents dwellings evaluated as fair.

**APPENDIX TABLE 8.—Nonfarm Employment Activity of Able-Bodied Members  
Sample Families, Other than Heads and Wives, Over 14 Years Old and Not in School  
by Adjustment Potential Groups<sup>1</sup>**

Group and activity	Male	Female
	..... Number .....	.....
<b>I. Families without major income problem:</b>		
Water well driller	1	..
Plant process operator	1	..
Salesman	1	..
Clerk	..	1
Part-time:		
Truck driver	1	..
Oil field worker	2	..
Carpentry work	2	..
Service station attendant	1	..
Dragline operator	1	..
Tin shop worker	1	..
Dredge boat worker	1	..
Clerical work	..	1
Teacher	..	1
None	15	8
<b>II. Families with limited adjustment potential</b>		
Construction worker	1	..
Teacher	1	2
Logging	1	..
Sawmill work	1	..
Highway work	1	..
Service station operator	1	..
Brick mason helper	1	..
Laundry worker	1	1
Lunch room worker	..	1
Librarian	..	1
Secretary	..	1
Beautician	..	1
Bank teller	..	1
Part-time:		
Delivery truck driver	1	..
Soda clerk	1	..
Agricultural processing plant	4	..
Service station attendant	1	..
Carpentry	1	..
None	17	17

*Continued*

APPENDIX TABLE 8. (Continued)

Group and activity	Male	Female
	Number	Number
II. Farm families excluding those in Groups 1 and 2		
On farms too small to earn \$2,000 income		
Insurance adjustor	1	..
Saloon clerk	1	..
Store clerk	..	1
Teacher	..	1
Part-time:		
Construction work	2	..
Sawmill work	1	..
Agricultural processing <sup>1</sup>	4	..
Logging	2	..
Trucking	2	..
Highway work	1	..
Lawn work	1	..
Waitress	..	1
Household maid	..	1
Elevator operator	..	1
None	27	30
On farms large enough to approach or earn \$2,000 income		
Surveyor helper	1	..
House mover	1	..
Household maid	..	1
Hospital maid	..	1
Part-time		
Service station attendant	1	..
None	19	17
IV. Farm laborer families		
Part-time:		
Sawmill work	1	..
Household maid	..	1
None	9	5
V. Miscellaneous families		
Store owner	1	..
Office manager	1	..
Clerical work	1	..
Sawmill work	1	..
Fisherman	1	..

<sup>1</sup>As defined on pages 6-7.

<sup>2</sup>Cotton gin, sugar mill, rice drier, potato kiln, etc.

